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ANIMAL CHARITY BELIEVES LACK OF CASH IS THE CAUSE OF CRUELTY

Probe into dead horses dumped in countryside

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE RSPCA is investigating a series of mysterious cases where dead horses have been found dumped in rural beauty spots.

The latest case involved the emaciated body of a gray pony, which was found by a resident in Wadhurst on Monday.

It follows a number of other incidents across the area over recent months.

But rather than a macabre case of animal slayings, experts believe the cases are more likely to be linked to financial concerns.

A spokeswoman for the animal welfare organisation said it was believed whoever was dumping the animals wants to avoid vet fees.

The charity said a number of dead horses had been dumped in quiet lanes across Kent over the last four months.

RSPCA Inspector David Grant said: "The horses may have died lingering, painful and unpleasant deaths and then they are just dumped by the roadside in country lanes."

A resident in Buckhurst Lane heard dogs barking at 2am on Monday morning and later discovered the pony's body under a blue tarpaulin outside their house.

The body was on a board with poles underneath as if it had been carried.

Zoe Ballard, an RSPCA animal welfare officer, said: "The horse's bones were very prominent, and it had probably been living in

Continued on page two



POP STAR SOPHIE HEADS TO THE FOREST

For full story see inside

Two new faces

COUNCIL chiefs have appointed two colleagues to join the board of the Tunbridge Wells Regeneration Company.

The appointments fill the gap left after the resignations of David Jukes and Glenn Hall in recent months – further twists in the hugely controversial plans for key sites in the town.

FULL STORY - PAGE 5

Legends to fly in

THE line-up for this year's Hop Farm Festival has been unveiled.

The annual festival in Paddock Wood will see American legends The Eagles top the bill on the first day of the event in July.

Tickets for the music extravaganza are on sale this week.

FULL STORY - PAGE 3

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Dead horses may be an unwanted expense

Continued from front page

a stable, because it had dirty shavings down one side. It was a native type pony, and the body was left in a quiet rural lane, so it might be connected with the horses dumped in similar places in Kent."

In another shocking case this January, a bay mare was found dead in Southernden Road, Headcorn. The animal was very thin and had been tied to a tree.

"What usually happens is the dead horse is brought to the lane in a trailer, tied up with a halter. The rope is then tied to a tree or a fence post and the trailer is driven away, leaving the horse's body tied up by the side of the road," Inspector Grant said.

"The people who are doing this do not want to pay for the disposal of the body and/or the cost of calling out the vet. The bay mare which was dumped was just skin and bone."

If you have any information about dead horses being dumped in the county call the RSPCA on 0300 1234999.



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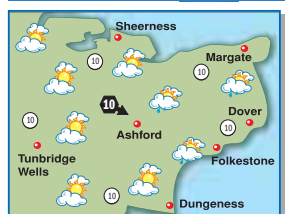
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Weather



Sun & Moon

Sunrise	6.48am	Sunset	5.29pm	Lighting up times
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High Tides

	today	tomorrow
	ht (m)	ht (m)
Dover	04.51 5.7 17.30 5.4	06.18 5.3 19.05 5.3
Margate	05.45 4.2 18.28 3.9	07.15 4.0 19.48 3.9
St Mary's	10.57 4.3 23.45 4.3	— 12.37 4.2

Around Britain

	°C	°F		°C	°F		°C	°F
Aberdeen	sun	9 48	Edinburgh	fair	9 48	Newcastle	sun	9 48
Belfast	fair	9 48	Glasgow	shwrs	8 46	Norwich	sun	10 50
B'ham	fair	10 50	Isle of Man	sun	9 48	Oxford	fair	11 52
B'mouth	fair	12 54	Leeds	fair	8 46	Southsea	fair	11 52
Bristol	sun	10 50	London	fair	12 54	Sh'mpton	sun	11 52
Cardiff	sun	11 52	Liverpool	sun	9 48	Southport	sun	8 46
Cork	fair	9 48	Manchester	fair	9 48	Swansea	sun	9 48

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

- **EDITOR:** Chris Britcher
- **CHIEF REPORTER:** Jenna Pudelek
- **ADDRESS:** Kenwood House, 1 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 2EL
- **WEBSITES:** www.kentnews.co.uk, www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk, www.yourtonbridge.co.uk, www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk
- **MOBILE WAP SERVICE:** www.kentnews.co.uk/mobile
- **TELEPHONE:** 01892 779650
- **FAX (ADVERTISING):** 01303 817001
- **EMAIL:** EDITORIAL: tv@kosmedia.co.uk ADVERTISING: sales@kosmedia.co.uk



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Blow to top attractions as weather sees slump

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

MISERABLE weather has been blamed for a slump in the number of people visiting leading tourist attractions last year.

While the amount of money the tourism industry pumps into the local economy rose again this year (see full report on page 11), some sights proved less successful.

The picturesque Sissinghurst Castle faired among the worst in the country in 2010, according to the figures published by the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) on Wednesday.

The estate and its famous gardens created by Vita Sackville-West in the 1930s, saw 154,530 visitors last year, which was 21 per cent less than 2009.

Chartwell, the country home of Winston Churchill, near Westerham, saw a three per cent fall in visitors last year. Also a National Trust property, the home had 188,705 visitors in 2010.

Bad weather and the impact of the ash cloud from the Icelandic volcano, Eyjafjallajökull, on international flights have been blamed.

Meanwhile, Visit Kent, an initiative that champions the county as a tourist destination, pointed out that it was not all bad: Knole House in Sevenoaks, which was not in the ALVA figures, enjoyed a record year with 95,000 visitors.

A spokeswoman for Sissinghurst said: "Last year we were affected by the poor weather over Easter, which has traditionally been a busy time and gives us a boost early each season."

"With the really bad, cold, wet weather people did not come out to enjoy the garden and wider estate. We were also affected because the bank holidays did not have terribly good weather."

A popular BBC series in 2009 about how fruit and vegetables are produced in the grounds and served in the restaurant saw visitors flock to the castle.

"We had a very good season, I think because the programme generated a lot of interest," the spokeswoman said. "I think so many people came and it might have been a bit busy but they decided not to come back for a couple of years. It's a real shame."

She added that a programme of events had been organised for this season, including fairs and a children's Easter egg hunt to pull in visitors from home and abroad.

Elsewhere in Kent, Leeds Castle near Maidstone suffered in 2010 with a drop in visitor figures of 13 per cent.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent said: "When compared to 2009, which was an exceptional year for visitor attractions in the county and saw numbers up by around eight per cent, it was no surprise that 2010 saw a slight decline."

"In general terms, Kent as a destination had a good year. Attractions showing a fall in visitors were outdoor venues which were particularly badly affected by the weather. This was reflected across the UK."

"What should not be ignored is that there were a number of success stories last year. Dover Castle with its new Great Tower exhibition recorded a 15 per cent rise in visitors."



VISITORS: Sissinghurst Castle saw a 21 per cent drop

Frozen council tax bill helps to protect us from some of the cuts

COUNCIL chiefs in Tonbridge say no services or resources will be slashed this year, after finalising their budgets – and that they have found a way to continue to support community projects.

By introducing a new £500,000 Community Enhancement Fund, using money from the government's New Homes Bonus Scheme, it says the government cut-backs should not be so painful.

Cllr Mark Worrall, leader of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, says: "These are tough times but by taking a ten-year view of our finances we have been able to minimise the financial burden for our residents."

"We made sure we met the Coalition's criteria to receive a council tax freeze grant for

2011/12 so that we could keep our share of the council tax at its current level. We have made substantial efficiency savings which means we can protect services and the staff needed to deliver those services. We have also retained reserves which are adequate to deal with any unforeseen circumstances."

"The hardest thing to do during these difficult times was to find a way for the council to continue to support valued community initiatives and services."

"The new Community Enhancement Fund will provide an additional £125,000 every year for the next four years to community groups, which will be able to apply for grants, loans or match-funding."

"I'm really pleased that we will be able to

increase our support for facilities and services in our communities."

Meanwhile, Sevenoaks this week confirmed its slice of the council tax would not rise too.

With Kent County Council and the police already confirming no increase in their parts of the overall bill, it should mean bills dropping through letterboxes for the year starting April 1, will be at 2010 levels.

Cllr Peter Fleming, leader of Sevenoaks District Council, says: "We recognise the challenging economic climate facing many people and we are determined to do what we can to help them."

• **For more stories from these areas** see www.yourtonbridge.co.uk and www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.

'My mother could die if care home is shut down'

THE son of a frail care home resident believes his mother could die if she is forced to move due to the planned closure of a Hawkhurst care home.

John Porter's 89-year-old mother, Vera Waylor, is a resident at the Bowles Lodge care home which is among six homes that Kent County Council plans to close as part of public spending cuts.

Mr Porter, who lives in Tonbridge, said: "KCC refused to do an assessment of my mother in terms of the risk on her health of moving her."

"I asked them in August last year and they refused. If they found out there was a risk of killing someone by moving them, would they have made the decision [to close the home]?"

Mrs Waylor suffers from a number of health problems and desperately wants to stay at Bowles Lodge.

Distressing

"She was under the impression that when she moved out of her home, which was an immense thing for her, she would then be stable. Moving into another building will be deeply distressing," Mr Porter said.

"She has heart failure, short term memory loss and it took her a huge amount of time to settle and find out where everything is."

His legal challenge is now lodged with KCC and based on the authority's failure to consider the risk to his mother of death if she is forced to move.

"Mum is quiet strong at the moment because she is cross, and that is giving her a boost," Mr Porter said.

"But 25 out of 40 people die within a few months of moving to another home. The council says they have successfully moved people without risk, but they do not find out how they are once they have been moved."

"Six people have died at Bowles Lodge since the consultation was lodged."

The home in All Saints Road was purpose-built, and has 36 residents.

Mr Porter launched legal action against KCC on February 14 after a decision was taken by the authority on which of its care homes to close in January, after a four-month consultation on the proposals.

KCC would not comment on this case, because it is active.

Roads closed for half marathon

ROADS will be closed across the borough on Sunday to make way for the Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon.

More than 2,100 runners are expected to line up for the race, which gets under way at 10am. Drivers are warned to expect disruption until 1pm, and to avoid Rusthall and Langton Green.

The race starts at the Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre on St John's Road before heading north to Southborough, along Bidborough Ridge, through Penshurst and Fordcombe then finally through Langton Green, Rusthall and back through the town to the finish at Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, on St John's Road.

For more detailed information about the roads affected, please see the race website at www.twharriers.org.uk

A TEENAGE girl is recovering after being assaulted near a fish and chip shop in Hadlow.

The 16-year-old was walking near the Hadlow Fryer fish and

chip shop between 3 and 4pm on February 15, when a man grabbed her and pulled her into an alley, where she was assaulted. She was left shaken but unhurt by the ordeal.

Det Con Jon Baker said: "The man is reported to be in his 20s or early 30s. He wore jeans and a hooded waterproof top. We'd like to hear from anyone who saw him."



Eagles to fly in for Hop Farm Festival

By CHRIS BRITCHER

chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

ROCK legends The Eagles have been confirmed as this year's first headline act for the annual Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood.

The band – best known for their 1976 multi-million selling Hotel California album – will headline the Friday night of the two-day event in July.

They will follow in the footsteps of Bob Dylan, who was the big draw at last year's festival, and the likes of Neil Young and Paul Weller in previous years.

After months of speculation, it was confirmed on Monday that The Eagles would headline, with support on the Friday coming from former Roxy Music frontman Bryan Ferry, The Killers' lead singer Brandon Flowers, Cab for Cutie and 10cc.

The Saturday headliner and rest of the line-up is likely to be confirmed over the coming days.

The two-day festival will take place on Friday, July 1, and Saturday, July 2.

Competitive

Securing The Eagles, who have a number of European shows scheduled for this summer – will be a major boost to festival organisers, keen to establish the festival in what is an increasingly competitive arena.

It will also see a huge boost to the local economy, with tens of thousands set to descend on the Hop Farm site to attend one or both days of the music extravaganza.

Spearheaded by festival chief Vince Power – who built up his Mean Fiddler empire and was involved in the Reading and Glastonbury festivals in the past – the event aims to distinguish itself from other festivals by having no corporate sponsorship or branding.

It even ditches VIP areas to ensure all festival goers share the same experience.

Mr Power explained: "I'm really happy to start to announce the Hop Farm's line up, now in its fourth year. After last year's success with Bob Dylan and

Mumford and Sons, to name but a few of the huge acts, it's my opinion that the Hop Farm is well and truly on the UK festival map and will go from strength to strength as one of the country's few independent festivals."

The festival has four music stages and includes comedy and campsite stages.

Tickets are now on sale. Weekend tickets are priced at £130 and day tickets at £70. Camping is £30 for the weekend or £25 per day. Children under 12 go in free.

Meanwhile, chart star Sophie Ellis-Bextor is set to join Erasure as a special guest at their Bedgebury concert this summer.

The Take Me Home singer will support the eighties synthpop duo at the event on June 11, which is part of the Forestry Commission's live music programme at the woodlands near Goudhurst.

Scottish rock legends Simple Minds are set to perform at Bedgebury on June 10.



KENT DATES: Chart star Sophie Ellis-Bextor, and top, US rock legends The Eagles

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Bank raid bid

DETECTIVES have appealed for witnesses after an attempted bank burglary.

Police said a door was forced at the Barclays Bank in Station Road, Borough Green, in the early hours of Monday, February 21.

The bank was cordoned off while forensic officers worked with police to examine the scene, and preliminary searches revealed nothing had been taken, police said.

Police would like to hear from anyone who witnessed suspicious activity in the area at about 3.12am on Monday.

Call 01732 379 217 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Cash card thefts

AN APPEAL for witnesses has been launched during an investigation into bank card thefts.

It follows recent incidents at ATMs in Southborough at about midday on February 11, and in Tunbridge Wells the next day between 11am and 12.15pm.

Two women in their 40s and a 16 year-old boy, all from London, have been arrested and charged in connection with the incidents.

Anyone who thinks they saw such an incident or may have been a victim, should call DC Jeremy Taylor on 01732 379217 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Writer at library

THE award-winning author Emma Donoghue has met some of her readers at Tonbridge library.

Her novel Room, which she has said was "triggered by" the horrifying Josef Fritzl case, was shortlisted for the 2010 Booker Prize and won Irish Novel of the Year.

The writer was at the library as part of events to mark LGBT History Month, which celebrates the achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.



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Communities given rest of year to find 'local' solution

Rural bus services get funding reprieve

TRANSPORT bosses have delayed plans to cut rural bus services until the end of the year.

Kent County Council said there were more than 220 local buses, mainly in rural areas, which were commercially unviable and needed £7 million in funding to support.

The authority had planned to make immediate cuts to about 20 of these services, but the U-turn will give voluntary and community groups

By JENNA PUDELEK

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

until the end of the year to take action to save their local buses.

Transport bosses at County Hall believe the move will save them about £300,000.

John Cunningham, the new portfolio holder for rural affairs at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, vowed to fight for bus services in the small villages and hamlets around the town.

"My job will be to get involved in things that are going on in the villages," he said. "Saving post offices, local shops and local bus services is part of this."

"The future of local bus services are a bit of a worry at the moment, as are services for school children. All of these threats are coming at once."

Bus services have already been hit in rural west Kent. Residents in Frittenden say their weekly service has already been cancelled.

Cllr Cunningham, who lives in Sandhurst, said there were concerns that some people, particularly the elderly, could be "cut off" if more services were lost from rural areas.

In Sevenoaks, the district council has agreed to allow local voluntary groups and other local transport providers to use its minibuses to help older people get out and about.

The nine buses, worth £62,000, will be used by the local organisations to make passenger trips for elderly people, replacing services that used to be funded by the council.

Avril Hunter, the council's cabinet member for minibuses, said: "Over the past three months, the council has been working tire-

lessly with a range of groups to provide alternative transport services.

"Our detailed discussions have given us an understanding of their needs and we're delighted to be able to gift them the minibuses."

Voluntary groups have until March 7 to apply for use of the buses, the council said.

Subsidies

KCC cabinet member for highways, Bryan Sweetland, said: "We are currently able to subsidise more than 221 local, mainly rural, non commercially-viable bus services. There has been a reduction in the funding to support these services."

"However, I will not be making any substantial reduction in bus services immediately."

"KCC will continue to fund these services until the end of 2011, which will provide sufficient time for local members, districts and borough councils, parish councils, voluntary and community and church groups and other interested parties to determine whether services can be delivered in another, more cost-effective way."

"Any new services will be designed and delivered locally, by local people for the local community."

"Members will have access to various grants, and in some cases they may consider that the continuation of a particular bus service or a new locally-designed service is a high priority."

"Again, this is decision-making at a local level by local people about a local service."

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www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk

Girls urged to have all three HPV injections

YOUNG women have been urged to get all three of the jabs needed to protect them against cervical cancer.

The latest figures from the Department of Health show that just 49 per cent of those eligible for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in west Kent have completed the course.

Dr Faiza Khan, consultant in public health at NHS West Kent, said: "The HPV vaccine will save lives, so it is vital that girls and young women help protect themselves from cervical cancer by taking up all three jabs."

"We would urge all girls and young women aged 12 to 18 who have missed one or more of the vaccines to speak to their school nurse or GP. It's really important to have all three doses, and it's never too late to catch up."

The figures show that in the 2009-10 academic year, 75 per cent of girls aged 12 to 18 had the first injection against the virus, which can lead to cervical cancer.

Completing the full course of three jabs reduces the risk of getting cervical cancer by 70 per cent.

The virus is transmitted through sexual contact and is very common, with more than half of all women becoming infected at some point in their lifetime. Only a small number of these will result in cervical cancer.



VACCINE: Girls should have three HPV jabs

By JENNA PUDELEK

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A BACKBENCH councillor and a top officer were due to join the board of the controversial Tunbridge Wells Regeneration Company on Wednesday night.

Jonathan MacDonald, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's director of regeneration, and Cllr Stan Ward, member for Paddock Wood (West), were set to be appointed at a meeting of the full council after being recommended for the roles.

They will replace Mayor David Jukes, who stepped down last year after saying he felt "out of the loop" from the company's dealings, and Cllr Glenn Hall, who fulfilled a promise to quit earlier this month after residents in his Pantiles and St Mark's ward voted against redeveloping the civic complex.

Set up in 2008 to develop the council's assets, the regeneration company, a 50/50 partnership between the authority and developers John Laing, has been beset by accusations of secrecy. Some residents believe it represents a conflict of interest and so far no regeneration work has gone ahead in the borough.

Up until this week, the council has two representatives on the board – chief executive William Benson and Cllr Catherine Mayhew, portfolio holder for economic development. Talking about his appointment to the board, Mr MacDonald said: "This way it achieves balance – we've got two members and two officers."

Asked why he thought he was chosen, he said: "Because of my commercial experience and background in property and development."

Mr MacDonald is a chartered surveyor with more than 20 years' development experience advising both public sector and consultancy clients.

He led the development and construction of the £33 million K2 leisure centre in Crawley and negotiated the agreement for a proposed £730m mixed use development with international developer Grosvenor Plc.

A grammar school boy from Leeds, Mr

Regeneration board's new duo ready for appointment

MacDonald studied at the universities of East London and Canterbury Christ Church. He has postgraduate diplomas in management and property development and an honours degree in psychology.

He said one of his aims on the board of the regeneration company was to improve communication.

"I will be working to ensure we improve communication, specifically with councillors and with the cabinet," he said.

"I plan to use my expertise to help translate and explain some of the workings of the regeneration company."

Mr MacDonald added: "The Government is actively encouraging partnerships with the private sector and although this model is an innovative joint venture between the public and private, it is not unusual.

"I certainly hope to use my experience to explain the projects and workings to both members and the public."

Cllr Ward, who is also a former grammar pupil, is originally from London and has been living in his ward of Paddock Wood for nearly 50 years.

He previously called for more information about the regeneration company to be

made publicly available. Cllr Ward, who had a successful career in insurance, has specialised in the insurances of major property portfolios, which has enabled him to observe and gain an insight into the property market.

He has worked specifically with clients acquiring or disposing of assets, which it is hoped will help in his new role.

William Benson, the council's chief executive, said: "I am delighted to hear that Cllr Stan Ward and Jonathan MacDonald have been nominated to join me and Cllr Catherine Mayhew as council directors on the board of the regeneration company."

"I know that they both have a huge amount of knowledge and experience and I look forward to working with them."



Jonathan MacDonald



Cllr Stan Ward

News and sport updated daily online
www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk

Trust takes folly for restoration

A CRUMBLING Grade I-listed Gothic Revival folly is a step closer to restoration after ownership passed to a trust that refurbishes unusual historic buildings.

Hadlow Tower, which has been on English Heritage's at risk register for more than a decade, will undergo a £4 million project to reinstate intricate original features which date from 1843.

The landmark has been subject to a compulsory purchase order by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and the authority has now handed ownership to the Vivat Trust.

The trust's plans include turning the 170ft tower into a holiday property and a public exhibition space on the ground floor.

■ THERE are just days remaining to respond to a public consultation about drug and alcohol treatment services in west Kent.

The Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team would particularly like to hear from those who use services in Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, and Tunbridge Wells. The consultation document which outlines the plans is being promoted through existing services and can be seen online at www.kdaat.co.uk. Closing date is Friday, March 4.

Blaze in Ash Close

ELECTRIC hair straighteners left plugged in are being blamed for a house fire in Tunbridge Wells on Tuesday.

The blaze broke out in Ash Close just after 2.30pm. No-one was injured.

Fire crews were called to the scene after flames and thick smoke were seen billowing from an upstairs bedroom.

Watch Manager Bob Gardner said: "This was an extremely fierce fire which created intense heat and lots of smoke, so the damage to the property was fairly extensive."

Unions defend public services

TRADE union leaders have been brought together for the first meeting of the West Kent Campaign for Public Services.

Steve Dawe, a member of the University and College Union and spokesman for Kent Green Party, chaired the meeting.

The campaign, which covers the Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and Malling areas, was launched to highlight the alternatives to the Government's public spending cuts.

David Buss, from the Kent County Council branch of Unison, said: "KCC will be cutting far more jobs than the 1,500 already reported. This does not include some jobs being lost in old people's homes and in libraries. Concerning the deficit, the position of the UK is better than that of the USA, Germany, France and Japan, but we are making deeper cuts in public spending than those countries."

Sarah Carpenter, from Unite, the UK's biggest union, said the cuts were affecting young people and women the most.

"These cuts are about ideology, not necessity," she said. "Are we really going to push through cuts in speech and language therapy? Are we really going to continue allowing the cuts to impact most heavily upon young

people and women? Cuts are already occurring in the charitable sector, despite the Big Society idea."

Andy Comben, from the Communication Workers' Union, which represents postal workers, explained how the cuts in public spending are hitting the sector.

"The loss of a further 700 jobs will create an impact on the Universal Service Obligation," he said.

That is the legal requirement which ensures services come at an affordable cost.

"This means a six-day service will go. Saturday deliveries are particularly under threat. Rural areas may not get a delivery every day. This is despite evidence that 46 per cent of businesses surveyed require a six day a week service."

Suzanne Jeffery, chair of the Trade Union Group of the Campaign Against Climate Change, said: "We can have an alternative to the cuts which brings together the key concerns of trade unions and environmentalists."

"The costed programme we have developed suggests it is possible to create one million jobs in the fight against climate change."

The meeting was held at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge.

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THE INTERVIEW



BY ED HILL

The things we do for music

THE seventies was an era of progressive rock, heavy metal, reggae, disco, soul and funk.

Most bands could be clearly pigeonholed into one of those genres, but one band seemed to encompass them all.

A foursome of some of the most talented musicians of their generation, Graham Gouldman, Eric Stewart, Kevin Godley and Lol Creme, had known each other in the sixties before finally coming together to form 10cc.

For Gouldman it was the point when his musical ambitions had been realised.

He said: "It was like a dream come true. I was with a talented bunch of guys. Everyone sang produced and played, it was brilliant."

Until then Gouldman's success was more as a songwriter than a performer. From an early age he knew he wanted to be involved in the music business.

"I had a difficult time at school. I was highly intelligent, but an academic disaster, but I did have a lot of belief that I could do something in music. I worked in a shop for two years just to get some dosh, but when they sacked me they did me a big favour," he said.

Gouldman by that point had attracted a manager, Harvey Lisberg. He paid him a retainer to come up with new songs for other acts and within six months he had a hit for the Yardbirds.

He said: "I was happy being a songwriter because I was having a lot of success and I was playing in a band with Kevin, so I was satisfying that side of things as well."

It was not until the four friends came together at Strawberry recording studios in

Stockport that the seeds for 10cc began to grow. Gouldman and Stewart had invested their own money in the venture.

Graham said: "We became the house band, playing on other people's records and recording daft things like football records just to get business. When we weren't working for someone else, we started writing our own songs. We'd recorded a song that was going to be on the B-side of a single for Apple, and then Lol and Kevin wrote Donna. As soon as we recorded it, we knew it was something special."

The Apple deal fell through, but another young rock impresario signed them up. Jonathan King came up with the band's name, promoted the record and Donna got to number two in the charts.

But 10cc records were hard to define, whether it be the classic ballad like I'm Not In Love or the reggae-inspired Dreadlock Holiday.

Graham said: "We were just doing what we wanted to do. We wrote to please ourselves and it was a happy coincidence that other people enjoyed it as well. Between the four of us there was a massive amount of influences, from R & B to Jacques Brel. That showed in our music."

The group became one of the most innovative bands in the recording studio, multi-layering tracks with vocals and new effects.

They had three UK number ones, along with other top 10 classics such as I'm Mandy, Fly Me.

And now Gouldman is on the road again, although without Godley, Stewart and Creme. However, most of the current band dates back to 10cc's heyday, when they needed great musicians to recreate their studio sound live.

Graham said: "I try to make the concerts sound as much like the records as possible, because that is what I want to hear when I go to a gig. The whole experience of playing live takes you to another place and I have always really loved it. It's about the music not the personalities."

And thanks to the internet, the 10cc brand is still reaching young fans.

"I suppose they have grown up listening to our music at home with their parents or on the radio, or they have downloaded it and are sharing it on the internet," said Graham.

The rise of downloading has radically changed how people access their music. Gouldman has his reservations for musician's earnings but is optimistic about the future.

"Music costs money to make and we need to get that money back, but I do like the fact people can share music so quickly. I also really like how we can communicate with our fans through the internet. That has been a

big shift. Artists can't live on some other planet anymore, being aloof. I never liked that. The walls have been broken down."

Gouldman says the band will be playing all the classic tracks and more on their latest tour.

He said: "I like things to be right and I want the audience to get the maximum enjoyment. That is what comes first and I think we have it right at the moment."

And Gouldman is as busy as ever. He has just completed an album with Mick Wilson, currently the main singer in 10cc and will be working with Andrew Gold, with whom he had a number of hits as the band Wax.

He said: "I don't like to be idle. I like to try different things; even if they fail there is always something good that comes out of it."

• **10cc will be playing at the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall Theatre on March 10, call 01892 530613 and at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on March 17, call 0844 847 1776.**



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Cash cuts warning over man-made flood threat

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

RESEARCH which proves global warming contributed to the Kentish floods of 2000 should serve as a warning about the consequences of government spending cuts.

That is the view of Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe, who claims the Coalition is failing to adequately prepare for climate change by slashing the amount it spends on flood protection schemes.

His comments are in response to a ground-breaking study by Oxford University scholar Myles Allen, who found that global warming made the autumn 2000 floods – which hit Maidstone and Tonbridge when the River Medway burst its banks – between two and three times more likely to happen.

Mr Dawe said the research confirms predictions made 20 years ago that climate change would make naturally occurring events more frequent and damaging.

He added: "Under the previous government the Environment Agency wanted £1 billion a year for flood defence projects in view of various floods going back to 2000.

"The Government agreed to raise the funding to £800 million a year, but now the Coalition is cutting this (by eight per cent to £540m a year). The justification for these



FLOOD RISK: The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood, was one of the victims of flooding

cuts should now be challenged, because if they don't reverse the policy and recognise the needs of the Environment Agency then we will all end up paying for the consequences of further floods."

Between September and November, 2000, more than 500mm of rain fell in the UK – the wettest autumn since records began in 1766. More than 10,000 homes were flooded and £3.5bn of insurance claims were filed.

The latest research, which was compiled

through www.climateprediction.net, represents the first time scientists have quantified the role of human-induced climate change in increasing the risk of a serious flood.

Experts say it could have wider consequences by making compensation claims against energy firms more likely to succeed.

But according to Mr Dawe, protecting residents from flooding should be the priority.

"We've done a lot of building on flood plains and put more people in vulnerable positions," he added.

"Ashford, in particular, is very flood-prone, and Yalding has had terrible flooding.

"If we don't spend the money on protection schemes when we're building new houses, then what on earth are we doing?"

Last March, emergency planners at Kent County Council drew up the county's most detailed flood response document amid fears of rising sea levels, storms and sinking land masses.

Emergency planning officer Tony Harwood told KoS at the time: "The Environment Agency has identified some 70,000 households in the county that are potentially vulnerable to either fluvial (river/stream) or coastal flooding, so we obviously need to be prepared to protect them.

"It's not good enough to come up against problems during a flood event – we need to do the proper planning."

Find more news and sport updated daily
www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk

Tip-off leads to fuel theft arrest

A 19-YEAR-old man has been arrested on suspicion of fuel theft after domestic heating oil was stolen from a home in Hever.

Police were called after a member of the public reported suspicious behaviour near a house in Uckfield Lane at about 4am on Friday, February 18.

A large van and a car were seen and the person reported a smell of oil. Patrol officers searched for and found the van, which was stopped on the M25.

The driver, whose address is unknown, was arrested.

Neighbourhood officer Sergeant Richard O'Toole said: "We are very grateful to the caller who reported seeing the suspicious vehicles and gave a good description of them.

"I'm sure a lot of people wouldn't think that heating oil can be carried in a van.

"It's delivered by tanker, but thieves taking it away are using vans which are fitted out with tanks in the back and the oil gets siphoned into them.

"Please don't hesitate to report something to police if it causes you concern or you think it may be suspicious."

Damage charge after car attacks

MAGISTRATES will hear the case against a man charged with criminal damage following a number of incidents in West Malling.

Jamie Wigman, 21, from Mereworth, is charged with damaging cars.

He was charged last Thursday, February 17, and was bailed to appear before Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court next Friday, March 4.

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Show is great place to plan your holiday

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THERE are just two weeks to go before Archant KOS Media's popular Travel and Leisure Show makes its welcome return.

Hoping to follow the success of previous years, the 2011 event promises to be better than ever, with a huge host of attractions.

For the first time in its four-year history the show, which last year attracted 4,000 visitors, will feature a French contingent dedicated to promoting the continent.

Visitors to the event, at the Dover Cruise Terminal from 10am to 4pm on Sunday, March 13, will also be in with a chance of winning a selection of prizes, including a two-week cruise, courtesy of Fred. Olsen Cruise Line.

Archant KOS Media events manager Liz Hare said: "Every year the show goes from strength to strength, with many people returning, saying they wouldn't miss it for the world."

"We have a completely new area this year, devoted entirely to France and featuring 17 French companies who have come across the Channel to take part in the show for the first time."

"Since its launch, this show has been very



PACKED: Visitors to last year's show found plenty to interest them, and this year's show promises to be bigger and better than ever

successful and with the registrations already pouring in and 41 prizes on offer, I hope this year will exceed all expectations."

This year's show will run during British Tourism Week, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of Britain's visitor economy.

Organisers behind the national event, which runs from March 12-20, gave Archant KOS Media official accreditation for its annual Travel and Leisure Show.

Visitors will be treated to a host of exhibi-

tions from top travel and ferry companies, as well as information about attractions in Britain and Kent, for those planning to holiday at home.

Owners of the county's historic sites, gardens, attractions and other hidden gems will also be exhibiting.

Last year's show won the praise of the travel industry, with many putting in early reservations to secure display stands in 2011.

Sarah Hirsch, of Dickens World, said: "I was trying to think of words that would sum



THE travel & leisure SHOW

up the show, like fantastic, best show ever, great organisation, amazing, but it doesn't really sum up how good we find it.

"The show has gone from strength to strength over the last three years."

The event will host presentations on a wide range of travel and leisure activities, with exhibitions running throughout the day.

There will be hot and cold food and drinks, and face-painting and nail art for children.

Entry is free, and free parking will also be available.

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Axe still hanging over trees

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

BEDGEBURY Pinetum is not out of the woods yet, despite the Government's U-turn on the privatisation of forests.

Environmental campaigners have welcomed the coalition's decision to abandon plans to sell off 258,000 acres of woodland run by the Forestry Commission.

Malcolm Dove, secretary of the Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum, said: "We are delighted they've abandoned the consultation, although the issue is not totally resolved."

"A panel is being set up to review ownership of the forests and we are not quite sure what it is going to do."

"Government cuts are still going to reduce

the number of staff here, which will put more pressure on the friends to maintain the pinetum.

"So it is good news, but not all good news." Bedgebury is home to 3,000 acres of woodland as well as the national pinetum, which is the most complete collection of conifers in the world.

Mr Dove said one out of the two Forestry Commission workers at the woodland near Goudhurst had lost their job, due to Government spending cuts.

Mr Dove added: "We are concerned there will be a gradual deterioration of the high standard we have here."

Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman told MPs last Thursday, February 17, that the controversial consultation on the future of 85 per cent of Forestry Commission woodland was being axed.

It came after the Government put on hold

plans to sell off 15 per cent of public forests, which is the most allowed without a change in legislation, the week before.

The plans provoked wide-spread public outcry across the country, and more than half a million people signed a petition against the privatisation proposals launched by campaign group 38 Degrees.

Public outcry

Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), gave the sharp about-turn a cautious welcome.

"We must still make our voices heard and keep the pressure on our legislators," a spokesman said. "CPRE Protect Kent welcomes the government's decision to cancel the consultation on its plans to sell Forestry Commission land, but the battle is by no means over."

"The government is still allowed to sell 15 per cent of England's woodlands in each four-year public spending period, and this sets a dangerous precedent."

"This sell-off is still planned to take place over the next four years and, without the strictest of safeguards, could still have impacts on public access and biodiversity."

The Government said a new panel of experts would be created to look at public access and biodiversity within the woodland.

Steve Dawe, spokesman for the Kent Green Party, welcomed the coalition's U-turn.

He said: "This is a major success of a wide ranging coalition of individuals and groups against what may have been the most unpopular privatisation ever suggested."

• See www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk for more news from the area.



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Vineyard on the list

Kent's oldest commercial vineyard, Biddenden Vineyards, is the newest addition to the Seven Wonders of the Weald.

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Inclusion will mean a useful tourism boost – and allows visitors to purchase a special pass,

costing £39.95, allowing free or discounted entries to the attractions.

Established in 1969, Biddenden Vineyards covers over 22 acres "under vine", producing over 10 different varieties of white, red, rosé and sparkling wines. The vineyards also produce the famous Biddenden Cider, a very strong, still cider.

For more information visit www.sevenwonders.org.uk.



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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

SEXUAL health doctors have urged the Government to vaccinate against genital warts as part of the school-based jabs programme, **writes Jenna Pudelek.**

Cases of the sexually-transmitted infection (STI) have soared, with an increase of 33 per cent across the South East since 2000.

More than 400 new cases per 100,000 of the population were diagnosed in Kent in 2009.

Medway had the highest rate of the infection, at 167 in 2009. Recent figures from Medway's GUM (genito-urinary medicine) clinic show cases of genital warts rose 36 per cent, from 302 to 412, between 2004 and 2010.

The British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) is campaigning for the Government to switch the vaccine given to young girls to protect against cervical cancer caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV) to one that also protects against genital warts, which are caused by the same virus.

Distressing

Dr Colm O'Mahoney, a consultant in genito-urinary medicine and spokesman for BASHH, said: "Genital warts are incredibly common – 150,000 cases are now recorded every year, and that is a massive number of cases.

"I work on the frontline in sexual health and 50 per cent of my workload is managing and treating genital warts.

"It is a very distressing condition and I see many young women who find they have this ugly and disfiguring condition. It has a huge psychological impact."

Calls for jab to combat growth in sex diseases

ing condition. It has a huge psychological impact."

NHS West Kent recorded the lowest rates of genital warts in 2009, with 120 per 100,000 of the population. NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent had a rate of 129 new diagnoses per 100,000.

Dr O'Mahoney said treating genital warts costs the NHS £50 million a year.

The current HPV vaccine, Cervarix, given to girls aged 12 to 14, prevents cervical cancer, but leaves them at risk of developing genital warts.

An alternative jab called Gardasil, which is used in vaccination programmes in other countries, prevents both infections.

A survey by BASHH found that nine in 10 sexual health doctors

would advise their own daughters to have the Gardasil jab.

Dr O'Mahoney was among the sexual health doctors who met with MPs in Parliament recently to push the case for the alternative vaccine as the contract comes up for renewal this year.

"Britain is one of the only developed countries offering Cervarix rather than Gardasil," he said. "The reaction from MPs has been very positive. They cannot understand why Cervarix was chosen."

Genital warts are small, fleshy growths, bumps or skin changes that appear on or around the genital or anal area.

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Visitors boost our economy by £600 million

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

TOURISM is boosting west Kent's economy by more than £600 million, a new study has shown.

More than 11,500 jobs are also being created by the 'visitor economy', according to the independent research commissioned by Visit Kent and local authorities.

In Tunbridge Wells, tourism, leisure and hospitality contributes £232 million to the borough's economy, and supports 4,376 jobs.

The research is based on statistics from 2009, and can be compared with the last Cambridge Model survey of tourism carried out in 2006.

Overall, the economic impact of tourism has increased by 16 per cent.

In 2009, 332,000 overnight trips were made to Tunbridge Wells, including 51,000 by overseas visitors. The number of overseas overnight visitors has increased three per cent since 2006.

Spending

Tunbridge Wells attracted 4.15 million day trips, up nine per cent compared with 2006, and day trip spending increased by eight per cent rising from £134.3 million in 2006 to £145.1 million in 2009.

Local businesses also benefited from £12.7 million of direct turnover spent by visitors with second homes, and local residents entertaining their guests.

Cllr Catherine Mayhew, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's portfolio holder for tourism, leisure and economic development, said: "Tunbridge Wells and its surrounding area are wonderful places to visit, and these figures show that increasing numbers of visitors recognise this."

In Sevenoaks, tourism and its related sectors are boosting the local economy by £224million and supporting 4,190 jobs.

Compared to figures from 2006, the overall economic impact has

increased by nine per cent.

In 2009, 62 per cent of the 246,000 people visiting from this country stayed with friends and relatives in the district, as did 43 per cent of the 46,000 people who came from overseas.

Cllr Pat Bosley, Sevenoaks District Council's cabinet member for tourism, said: "These figures highlight the importance of tourism and visitors to our district and our local economy."

Tourism contributed £149million towards Tonbridge and Malling's economy in 2009 and supports some 2,988 jobs. This is up eight per cent on the 2006 figures.

Tonbridge and Malling borough councillor Martin Coffin said: "We are committed to working with our tourism organisations and all our businesses to support and grow this sector."

In Kent and Medway as a whole, the survey found that tourism contributes £3.2billion to the economy and supports 63,000 jobs. Overall, the amount tourism contributes to the county's economy is up 10 per cent since the 2006 study.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent, added: "These tremendous results really demonstrate that Kent and Medway are increasingly becoming recognised as a top UK destination at home and abroad."

"Visit Kent brings together local authorities and our 3,000 tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses to market our county in a way that no individual business or organisation could do on its own."

"I am confident that when the next survey is done, based on data collected in 2012, the results will be even more impressive."



POPULAR: Knole House, above, and Tonbridge Castle, right, are among destinations attracting visitors

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JENNA PUDELEK finds out how changes to maternity care are seriously affecting

Birth units feel the strain

SOARING birth rates and a shake-up of services in the west of the county are set to put pressure on stretched maternity units.

To keep caring for mothers and babies safely in east Kent, the NHS hospitals trust has been forced to close two of its midwifery-led birthing centres.

Extra midwives have been sent to the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford to cope with the huge number of births there, and it is estimated around 50 more of the specialist nurses would be needed to keep all maternity services running.

Meanwhile in west Kent, the Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has approved controversial plans to centralise women's and children's services at the new £235 million super-hospital at Pembury.

Consultant-led obstetrics and paediatrics will be based there, while Maidstone Hospital will have a new midwifery-led birthing centre set to open in September this year.

Women have the right to choose where and how they give birth whether it is at home, at a midwifery-led unit, or at an acute hospital. But coupled with the financial constraints of the NHS, this is increasing the pressure on the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

Lindsey Stevens, head of midwifery and gynaecology nursing at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The issue for us is that the majority of births are happening on the William Harvey site,



which has more than 50 per cent of births.

"There is an increase in birth rates in the whole of the South East, particularly in the Ashford area, there is also a full obstetrics, paediatrics unit and a midwifery-led unit [at the William Harvey].

"Women with low-risk births can choose the midwifery unit, but they have the comfort of knowing the acute unit is just upstairs."

The trust is also aware that when consultant-led maternity services at Maidstone transfer to Pembury, some emergencies

will be transferred to the William Harvey.

At the moment, the trust has been forced to close its midwifery-led birthing centre at Canterbury and is unable to open the new centre at the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) in Margate due to a shortage of midwives.

In 2010, east Kent had a total of 7,490 births with 4,180 at the William Harvey – including 662 in the midwifery unit – 2,745 at the QEQM, 215 at the Dover birth centre and 350 at the Canterbury birth centre.



"We have had to take staff over to the William Harvey. With the much higher birth rate at this site, midwives had to suspend services in one of the birthing centres," Mrs Stevens said.

The trust's review is looking at how services should be delivered across the patch, but she said it appeared women were choosing a 'co-located' birthing centre and acute unit.

"The feeling is that women are voting with their feet so to speak and choosing a midwifery-led unit," Mrs Stevens said. "They

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our mothers-to-be



SPLIT SERVICE: The new hospital at Pembury, above, is having a dramatic effect on uptake of birthing services at the William Harvey in Ashford, centre, and The Maidstone Hospital, below

have the security of knowing all the acute services are nearby."

Nationally, there is a shortage of midwives and Cathy Warwick, general secretary of the Royal College of Midwives, has warned the staff shortages "threaten safety".

Mrs Stevens said the trust's review was "all about safety". She added: "It's about making services equitable. Wherever the woman goes, she is going to get safe care. The issue for us with the William Harvey was an increasing birth rate, year on year, and a decrease at the other sites.

"It's about making sure women get the same service at the QE&M. That is why we've had to move midwives, to balance the birth-to-midwife ratio. We are not suspending services because of financial constraints."

Reality

However, she added: "Yes there is a financial implication. If we had more money we could employ more midwives, but we have to be realistic. Is that really viable given the financial constraints within the NHS at the moment? We have to work through that with the PCT and GP commissioners."

In west Kent, the NHS has won a hard-fought battle to create a stand-alone midwifery-led birthing centre at Maidstone with the consultant-led services at Pembury.

For the hospital trust and primary care trust this is about safety. But campaigners in Maidstone fear their hospital is being downgraded due to financial constraints.

Dr James Thallon, medical director at NHS West Kent, said: "This is about changing journeys of care and the need to focus expert resources on that small number who need urgent interventions. To do that we needed to centralise services on one site."

He thought some of the controversy would die down once mothers from Maidstone have the chance to see women's and children's services at the new hospital, which opened last month.

While staffing levels are causing problems in the east, Gillian Duffey, associate director of nursing and head of midwifery at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, said the trust was not suffering from a shortage of midwives.

"At MTW we have no vacancies and we ran most of this year with no vacancies.

"Staffing levels are good but we can never be complacent and strictly audit the number of women and number of midwives.

"We are investing in midwifery still to improve our ratio of women to midwives. We've managed a policy of one-to-one care at MTW, which is not something that all maternity units can provide."

Meanwhile, the trusts are hoping the Maidstone centre will prove a popular choice for women and there is evidence that mother-to-be are increasingly choosing less medical, more natural surroundings for their birthing experiences.

Mrs Duffey added: "We have made sure the consultant-led unit at Pembury is as little medicalised as possible. It is acknowledged that women relax more in a home-type environment."

FOUR black-and-white colobus monkeys have arrived at an animal park and spent the week entertaining half term visitors.

Drusillas Park in Alfriston, East Sussex, welcomed the new arrivals, with the troop led by head boy Elgan who is joined at the zoo by females Opet, Isis and Hathar.

Head keeper, Mark Kenward said: "This is the first time we have looked after this

species here so it is exciting for our staff as well as our visitors.

"They are a lovely group and we are really pleased with how quickly they have adjusted to their new environment. They are starting to recognise the keepers who work with them and the three girls in particular are displaying a confident bounce in their step."

Colobus monkeys live in family groups

of up to 20 animals, often consisting of one male, several females and their young. They usually have one baby at a time, which is covered in white hair when born. In the wild, Colobus monkeys inhabit the forests of central Africa where their numbers have fallen due to habitat destruction and hunting.

The group at Drusillas is part of a breeding programme.



Picture: MC SHARP/PA

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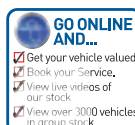
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Daylight saving is welcome here

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

PLANS to move UK clocks forward an extra hour have been warmly received in the county where daylight saving was first proposed.

Bromley resident William Willett, who died in 1915, campaigned long and hard for the Government to change the daily schedule so people did not waste the first few hours of sun by sleeping through it.

His proposals were embraced at the time by another former Kent resident – future Prime Minister Winston Churchill – and were eventually implemented as a way of increasing productivity in the munitions trade during World War One.

Now the Government is proposing to move the clocks forward an extra hour to bring the UK into line with Central European Time (CET), meaning lighter evenings, but darker mornings.

North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale is one of those backing the campaign to introduce what he refers to as “Churchill Hours”, or Double British Summertime.

He said: “The double summertime was good enough to help the war effort and it is good enough now to boost tourism, recreation and after-school safety for children.

“All the statistical evidence arising from the only serious experiment conducted reveals that, far from resulting in more accidents, extra evening daylight reduces traffic hazards, deaths and injuries.”

William Willett, who is the great-great-grandfather of Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, was a builder by trade and gained a reputation for his high-quality housing.

His idea for daylight saving came as he rode his horse through Petts Wood early one morning, and noticed how many houses still had their blinds down, despite the sunshine. Later, in 1907, he bemoaned the fact in a pamphlet entitled *The Waste of Daylight*.

Within a year Willett had gained support for his idea from the likes of Churchill, who lived at Chartwell, near Westerham, but despite the obvious positives of such a proposal, it was not followed up until after the builder's death.

Visit Kent chief executive Sandra Matthews-Marsh agreed that putting the clocks forward an extra hour would be good for tourism in the county.

She said: “Longer summer evenings will certainly give us all more time to enjoy our beautiful countryside.

“Long relaxing evenings savouring fine foods and wines, or watching the sun go down over the sea are some of the memories people cherish most from their holidays.”

A parliamentary bill requiring the Government to conduct analysis of the costs and benefits of shifting the clocks forward received MPs' initial approval in December.

Ministers are said to want to be satisfied the country backs the plan before giving the final go-ahead.

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Hospital's high staffing bill

EUROPEAN legislation limiting the hours doctors can work and recruitment troubles have been blamed for a hospital trust's soaring spend on agency staff.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust spent £13million on non-permanent doctors and nurses last year, compared to £3.5m in 2006-07, new figures have shown.

The increase has been put down to a number of factors, including the damning Healthcare Commission report published in 2007 into the deaths of at least 90 patients at the trust's hospitals from the superbug *Clostridium difficile*.

A lack of frontline staff was among the criticisms and one of the factors blamed for the two outbreaks of C diff at the trust, the report found.

Hospitals in easy reach of the capital suffer from the London effect, the trust, which runs

the Kent and Sussex in Tunbridge Wells, Pembury and Maidstone, said.

This makes it harder to recruit staff because of the attraction and higher pay of working in London.

Spend on medical agency staff or locum doctors has increased from £840,000 in 2006-07 to £6.5m in 2009-10. The trust is now working to reduce this.

Chief operations officer Nikki Luffingham said: “Our mortality rates are among the lowest in the country, our cleanliness and infection control are excellent, and our own patient satisfaction surveys show that patients record high levels of satisfaction with the care we give them.

“We are actively recruiting substantive staff to these posts now – for example nurses from Ireland and Portugal who started working on the wards this month.”

Highlighting risks of tweeting and driving

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN to stop motorists texting, emailing and tweeting at the wheel has been launched by road safety chiefs in Kent.

In the last three years, there have been at least 44 crashes on the county's roads caused by drivers using mobile telephones, and last month a study by the RAC revealed that one in five even access online social networking sites including Facebook and Twitter.

The problem has become so serious that road safety chiefs at Kent Highway Services have enlisted the help of an independent psychologist to support their campaign, which poses the question "is it worth the risk?"

"All mobile phones are dangerous to use when driving, but not in an obvious way like driving with a bag over your head would be," said Dr Ian Walker, a specialist in transport behavioural issues.

"People don't see the risks until it's too late. They use their phones without having a collision, or see other people use their phones without crashing, and this reinforces the behaviour."

"It makes people feel that using a phone can't be as bad as they're told. The truth is that using a phone affects a driver's reaction more than being drunk."

A recent survey by Kent Highways showed that 10 per cent of motorists admitted using a hand-held mobile phone while driving, and 44 per cent to using a hands-free kit.

Risks

But despite not being illegal, road safety team leader Steve Horton said the latter method still has its risks and can be punishable by law if a driver is found to have been distracted prior to a crash.

"Many drivers may think it must be OK to make a phone call because they think it's no different to talking to a passenger," he added.

"But there are huge differences. A passenger will soon alert the driver to impending doom if they don't think the driver has spotted it, but someone on the other end of the phone will just keep on talking."

Last month the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership spent a week analysing messages posted on Twitter.

It found one driver from the county saying: "I can't believe how bad my spelling was in my last tweet. A testament (sic) to not tweeting whilst driving!"

But as Lorna Foley can confirm, there can

be serious consequences to using a mobile at the wheel. She sustained a six-inch gash to her head, deep cuts to her left arm, a fractured wrist and dislodged vertebrae in her back following a serious collision in which the other driver was using her phone.

"We were lucky not to have been killed," said Lorna. "The driver who injured us was more concerned with making a call than the lives of other road users or even herself."

Meanwhile, fatal and serious road casualties in Kent have dropped by half in the past 10 years according to KCC figures.

The provisional statistics – which do not include Medway – show 55 people died and 498 were seriously injured during 2010.

KCC is therefore claiming victory in meeting turn-of-the-century government targets to cut deaths and serious injuries by 40 per cent within a decade, with the original figure standing at 1,196 – a decrease of about 50 per cent.



HAZARD: Using your mobile phone whilst driving affects focus and concentration

Church in cash boost

HISTORIC churches throughout Kent will receive a share of £800,000 funding to prevent them from crumbling into a state of disrepair.

Cracks, leaks and general decay have left the centuries-old listed buildings in need of urgent maintenance work, with the individual costs to cash-strapped parishes frequently running into the six-figure range.

But despite the UK's dire economic situation, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage say they have been able

maintain the £25 million worth of funding provided to such churches in 2010/11.

This year a chunk of that money will be spent renovating nine Grade I and II-listed buildings in Kent, with a separate pot for Grade II sites being announced next month.

Among those benefiting will be the Church of St Mary in Sundridge, near Sevenoaks, which was awarded £40,000.

Dr Andy Brown, from English Heritage, said: "Without it, many churches would fall into ruin."

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Charity chic

Cashing in on the latest fashion trends and raising vital money for a worthwhile cause, JENNA PUDELEK takes a look at the remarkable items donated to the charity shops supporting Pembury's Hospice in the Weald

THE current trend for vintage clothing has brought good fortune for Hospice in the Weald's charity shops.

Staffed by about 450 dedicated volunteers, the 15 shops in west Kent and east Sussex make a collective profit of more than £500,000, which is enough to fund five in-patient beds.

The stores, including two which specialise in furniture, are vital to the work of the Pembury-based palliative care charity.

Rachel Holweger, the hospice's fundraising director, said the charity has benefited from changing attitudes towards charity shops.

"Over the past year, the shops are as busy as ever," she said. "The public seem keen to recycle, and are happy to buy from charity shops."

"The snob attitude towards wearing a charity shop item seems to have disappeared. Indeed, people now seem proud to announce their 'charity shop bargain'."

"However, the difference is that the quality of donations has deteriorated. This can be put down to people holding on to things in times of financial difficulty. However, the volume of donations has increased, as people are aware of the need to recycle."

Upcycling, turning seemingly unwanted clothing, furniture or any object into desirable possessions, the trend for all things vintage and growing mentality towards recycling has sent a flood of shoppers to their local charity shop hoping to find a treasure trove of bargains.

The reality can often be quite disappointing, but some recent donations to Hospice in the Weald shops are enough to keep up the hopes of discovering an original Chanel bag.

In Southborough, a lucky customer found a Mulberry handbag on sale for £55, a pair of Christian Louboutin shoes were donated and later sold on ebay for £200, and a hat by the prestigious maker Herbert Johnson was also discovered.

Donations to the shops range from the slightly weird to the wonderful.

Southborough staff have also received a set of Barbie dolls complete with a wardrobe of



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clothes from the 60s/70s, which sold for £200, and an early edition of classic fairytale, The Water Babies.

Volunteers were also offered an outboard motor for a large boat, which they had to turn down.

Cathy Stern, area manager for Cranbrook and Tunbridge Wells furniture stores, said: "We have received recently an antique desk of significant value, a lovely old grandfather clock and a number of Art Deco pieces."

Interesting donations to the Camden Road shop in Tunbridge Wells include two Charles Horner hat pins dating from around 1920, one with an amethyst thistle design and the other featuring a Citrine acorn.

Staff members opened one black sack and were delighted to discover it was full of colourful saris and shalwar kameez.

The shop has also received a King George VI teapot, a 60s wedding dress from Harrods, war memorabilia and an illustrated book with the lyrics to every Elton John song.

Retro room

A book signed by the entertainer Sir Harry Secombe, famed for his work with The Goon Show, was donated, as well as LPs of the shows and a book of scripts.

In Westerham, there is currently a beautiful black, patent handbag by Mappin & Webb and a large amount of brand new PE kits from Harrods, donated by the manufacturer because the colour was wrong.

The Camden Road shop now has a specialist wedding shop as well as a 'retro room' and evening wear room.

Ms Holweger said most of the shops receive free advice from various experts about the books, china, watches, clocks and antiques they receive.

She said: "Any un-saleable clothes and sheets for example, are packed into black sacks and a company comes round and collects these and pays us for each sack."

"They are then taken to a warehouse where everything is sorted and recycled. We also do the same thing to a lesser degree with boxes of books."

"So nothing goes to waste. However, we do not accept televisions over two years old and computers, as we can't sell these and have to pay to dispose of them."

She described the shops as the "frontline of the hospice". The hundreds of volunteers



work 1,850 hours a week, saving the charity thousands of pounds a year in salaries.

The first hospice shop opened in Tunbridge Wells 26 years ago. Mrs Holweger said the charity is looking to expand the shops over the coming years.

For more information and to find your nearest Hospice in the Weald shop visit www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk.

BARGAIN BUYS: Pop down to the Westerham shop to snap up a black patent leather handbag by Mappin & Webb, or some brand new PE kit from Harrods

Making it easier to report hate crime

VICTIMS of hate crime can now report incidents online, through the Kent Police website.

Those affected often feel nervous of reporting hate crime to the police, and it is hoped the new measure will encourage victims to come forward and contact the police.

The online facility enables you to record incidents, even if you do not want to report it directly to the police.

This type of reporting will enable forces to collate information and help to improve the way it tackles such crime.

The online form asks for information about the incident, such as where it happened, witness or victim details, motivation, whether there were any injuries, damage to any property or vehicle, and if there was CCTV nearby.

Head of crime and intelligence

for Kent Police, Detective Superintendent Jon Sutton said: "The online facility offers victims of hate crime the opportunity to report the offence or incident that perhaps they may not have done previously."

The forms can be completed anonymously, although this limits the ability to prosecute the offender if the police are unable to contact that individual.

The True Vision website asks how you want to be contacted and whether contacting you would cause you difficulties.

The police will not pass on your details without your consent and would ask you to consider giving your details confidentially.

Hate crimes include hatred and hostility on the grounds of race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

Kent Police's website can be found at www.kent.police.uk.

Church chandelier stolen

A BRASS-coated chandelier has been swiped from a church.

Now police are appealing for information about the crime at Plaxtol Church between 8.30am on February 15 and 9.30am on February 16.

It is feared the crooks pinched the ornament during the day, while the church was open. It was stolen from a side chapel in the church.

Police would like to hear from anyone with information about the chandelier, pictured, or who

noticed suspicious activity at the church. Anyone with information

about this incident is asked to contact police on 01732 379217 – if possible quoting reference 2325 – or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Callers to Crimestoppers do not have to leave their name.

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Police would like to hear from anyone with information about the chandelier, pictured, or who



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british tourism week™

Pausing to take stock

Last week, your paper shone a timely spotlight on the "regeneration" farce that, in three years, has regenerated nothing, but has caused much consternation among residents.

It is indeed welcome news that the council's new leader has signified his intention of pressing the pause button on the regeneration juggernaut that has proved such a huge distraction from the real issues facing Tunbridge Wells, such as the cinema site and Morrisons grot spots. Perhaps, in taking stock, it should be acknowledged that:

- To avoid any perceived conflict of interest, neither the council's chief executive nor a cabinet member should be on the board of the regeneration company.
- Highly-paid council posts such as director of regeneration and director of change are not appropriate in a vibrant, historic place such as Tunbridge Wells.
- One of the two councillors appointed heritage champions should have a place in the cabinet, with a brief to ensure that listed building and conservation area considerations are properly respected, and due priority given to action on grot spots.
- The case for exploring the implications of the council disentangling itself from the development regeneration is increasingly strong.

Dr Philip Whitbourn, OBE, Tunbridge Wells.

A never-ending blight

Just when is the cinema site actually going to change hands? Hopes of an imminent sale seem to have been hanging in the air now for months and months – and that in addition to the years and years we had already been sat twiddling our collective thumbs.

The site continues to blight our town centre and heaven knows what visitors must think if they came here 10 years ago to see it boarded up and a decade later nothing has happened. It sends out the most appalling message. I don't see why the council doesn't

Make your voice heard

WE WELCOME your comments and letters for publication.

Please send correspondence to: The Editor, One Media/Archant KOS Media, Kenwood House, 1 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2EL

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances.

Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this

will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Missed last week's paper and want to know what sparked the debate?

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You can access all KOS Media's other titles this way too.

put pressure on Odeon to repurchase the site and open a town centre cinema there.

Not only would it ease some of the traffic concerns near the multiplex, but also provide an essential place for youngsters who are unable to drive or cannot easily get to out of town locations. The sense of a community venue is lost if every trip has to be done by car.

Get Odeon to free up its ridiculous restriction on the use of the site, effectively banning it from ever being a cinema again.

K Bowman, Tunbridge Wells

What a waste of space

While the council continues to bang the drum – albeit in a quieter way – about the town being in desperate need of more retail space, can anyone explain to my why the old cinema has not been snapped up by a big chain? It makes no sense to me to dispose of the civic complex if property just a few yards away cannot be sold.

Mrs H Cox, Southborough

Hope springs eternal

I was watching last week when the 'Under Offer' signs went up above the cinema site,

and my heart jumped at the thought of this grot spot finally being renovated.

But, alas, it seems we are no closer to getting the site sorted out. This was supposed to be resolved long before Christmas. We are now fast approaching March and still nothing. Can nobody do anything with this piece of prime real estate?

Lee Potter, by email

Ready for the fightback

Encouraging to see the council forced into a debate over the Great Hall car park. More amusing as it sends out a very clear signal to the council and its regeneration buddies that we will not be steamrollered into anything without a fight. Bet they hate it!

Name and address supplied

Our world of inequality

Stories in the news continue to highlight the nonsense of punishing people because of our differences. We are not all equal, we are not born equal and no amount of social engineering will change that. But we should all be treated equally and have equal opportunities presented to us, but that will still not make

us all equal. Bleeding heart liberals have provided a stick for those who feel disadvantaged to beat the rest of us with.

Many cases are generated out of spite rather than any genuine expectation to change other people's opinions. They have produced a compensation-claim culture that just rolls over anybody in its way.

Human rights have only been given to protected minorities so they can use the might of the state and the legal system to ride roughshod over others, over any slight, no matter how trivial. They appear too stupid to realise their pyrrhic victories do their causes no good and alienate those who might have been sympathetic.

So-called human rights have ensured the truth in the book Animal Farm, where some are seen to be more equal than others.

Phil Granger, West Malling

VOTE NOW...

EACH week we'll be giving you the chance to make your voice heard on a major issue.

This week we want to know your views on how, as a society, we should respond to the swingeing cuts being dealt by the Coalition Government.

Should we protest, abstain from voting, or simply swallow the bitter pill?

There is a range of options to choose from, so vote now – see the poll on the home page of www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk, www.yourtonbridge.co.uk or www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.

Full results will be printed next week.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Amid a period of savage cuts to public services, should councils be pledging large sums to fund local celebrations to mark the 2012 Olympics next year from the public purse?

- Yes – we could do with cheering up: 11 per cent
- Yes – but residents should be consulted: six per cent

- No – such events should be funded by corporate sponsorship: 44 per cent

- No – if there's money to spare it should be saving jobs and protecting services: 38 per cent

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BOTTOM

Millie Louise born on 20th February 2011 at 0:41am weighing 8lb 8oz. A new daughter for Robert and Leeanne, and baby sister for Jazmyne, Hollie and Jordan.

BROOKS

Charlotte Elizabeth Brooks born on 9th February 2011, weighing 6lb 11oz. Daughter to Zoe and Jamie Brooks of Maidstone.

BULL

Alfie Marley Glyn born on 28th December 2010, weighing 6lbs 6ozs. Son to Zoe and Glyn Bull in Dover, Kent.

DAVIES

Rachel and Mark of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their daughter Erin Paige Davies on 12th February 2011. Welcome sister to Ebony, Ashleigh and Aston.

DURNELL

Sahara Harmony Willow born on 7th February 2011, weighing 7lbs 12oz. Daughter to Caz and Alec in Margate. Precious sister to Chris, Liddy, Mercedes, Tiara, Melody and Callister.

GASKILL

Poppy born on 9th February 2011, weighing 6lbs 9.5oz. Daughter to Emma and Greig Gaskill in Margate. Baby sister to Summer.

HARLEY

Natalie and James of Birchington are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Darcie Grace Harley, born at QEPM Hospital on 25th January 2011, weighing 7lb 10oz.

HARVEY

Rebecca Coomber and Stephen Harvey are delighted to announce that baby Daniel Benjamin arrived on 10th February 2011, and tipped the scales at a healthy 9lb 8oz.

JARMAN

Terri and Shaun of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Jaiden Wallace Leonard Jarman, born on 8th February 2011 at QEPM weighing 8lb 3oz. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

KIRKIDEN

Millie Jo born on 12th February 2011, weighing 7lbs 6oz. Daughter to Chloe and Gavin in Margate. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

LESZCZYNSKA

Marlena and Radoslaw celebrate the birth of their daughter Vanessa Maria Leszczynska on 13th February 2011.

LINGHAM

Erin Rose born on 10th February 2011 weighing 6lb 13oz. Daughter to Donna Yeomans and Keith Lingham, baby sister to Craig, Alex, Liam and Niall.

MACGREGOR

Karen and Darren of St Peters celebrate the birth of their son Caiden James Macgregor on 12th February 2011. A brother to Danni and Niamh.

MARDEN

Shane and Kerry-Marie Marden celebrate the birth of their daughter Ellie-May Bridget Margaret Marden on 10th February 2011, sister to Dylan.

O'LEARY

Chris and Katie celebrate the birth of their daughter Chloe Anne Stanley Wallis on 11th February 2011.

PENFOLD

Lisa Dunnigan and Paul Penfold are proud to announce the birth of their son Leon Kenneth Michael Penfold on 11th February 2011, weighing 7lb 11oz.

PORTER

Eva Susan, born 7th February 2011 at 11.10am at the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford to proud parents Richard and Jackie. A big thank you to the midwifery team.

PROCKTER

Chloe Prockter born 19th January 2011 weighing 6lb 12oz. Daughter to Richard and Sarah.

SMYTH

Shay Gerry Matthew born on 1st February 2011, weighing 4lbs 8ozs. Son to Joanna and Darren in Ramsgate. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

STOCKEN

Ruby-Mae Izabell born on 8th February 2011, weighing 7lbs 6ozs. Daughter to Ann and Chris Stocken in Margate. A sister to Sean, Angel and Tegan.

STREATFIELD-SARGEANT

Luke and Rachael of Herne Bay proudly announce the birth of their son, Jesse Luke, on 13th February 2011 weighing 7lb 10oz. A new brother for Bailey.

WALLIS

Jon and Jodie celebrate the birth of their son Harrison Stanley Wallis on 12th February 2011.

WIGG

Isobel Ruth born on 1st February 2011 weighing 9lb 10z. Beautiful daughter to Stephanie and Matthew.

DEATHS

BOWEN

Rev V Paul Bowen died peacefully on 10th February at The Queen Mother Hospital, Margate, following a short illness. Loved by his wife, friends and family. Funeral to be held at St Michaels, Harbledown, on Tuesday, 1st March, at 11:45am. Everyone welcome. No flowers please, but donations to Christian Aid.

MANN

Phoebe Mann on the 19th February, 2011, aged 82 years. Dearly loved mother of Dave and Yvonne, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service at East Farleigh Church at 11.30am on the 8th March, all welcome.

IN MEMORIUM

JOHN O'BRIEN

In loving memory from your daughter and son, Elaine and Mark O'Brien. You are sadly missed. Died on 27th February 2010.

tion.

Labour allowed the long-time benefit offenders to continue on their road of idleness and become alienated from society.

All these people should be forced to do voluntary work to get them back into work. Until we do that, this country will continue to slide into a deeper decline.

The Labour Government continued to borrow, right up to two days before they lost their position. They never gave a thought as to how we, the taxpayers, would ever be able to get out of the mess.

It was not the Coalition Government that has put us into this mess, it was the Labour Government.

All I can say is, if all the people in this country don't pull together, we will never make this country a better place.

We have to stop being so materialistic, work hard and we will be able to hold our heads high once more.

Name and address supplied

A warm invitation to old soldiers

In last Sunday's edition of your excellent paper, Mick Stanley reminded your readers that on March 1 it will be 50 years since The Buffs, The Royal East Kent Regiment, amalgamated with The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment to form The Queen's Own Buffs.

A moving parade was held at Shorncliffe where I had the privilege of carrying one of The Colours.

Soon afterwards, we were flown to Kenya for an extended emergency tour and then, after a spell in UK, were dispatched to keep the peace in strife-torn British Guiana. The battalion then moved to Hong Kong for an odd mix of public duties, with periods of rioting thrown in, and then on for an active service tour in Borneo confronting Indonesia, who were trying to annex what is now called Eastern Malaysia.

All in all, a busy five years and 306 days (exactly) when along with the other regiments from the South East they again marched into history to become 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

You might have thought that this was the end of a happy and respected regiment. Not so. Today we have a highly active Queen's Own Buffs Association, 1,400 strong, with large branches in Ramsgate, Canterbury, Sittingbourne, Tonbridge (called Weald Branch) London and Colchester, where many settled after a tour based there.

Smaller branches are in Sandwich, Bromley, Hythe and, curiously, in Denmark, because many Danes served in The Buffs during and after the war.

Our membership includes those who served in any of the above-named regiments and many still march with pride at our annual reunions in Canterbury and Maidstone.

In this, our anniversary year, besides enhancing our two reunions, we are holding a gala lunch in London on Saturday, October 1, at which all of our old warriors and their spouses are welcome and will be subsidised for association members.

In May, some of us are off to Albuhera in Spain to celebrate the 200th anniversary of this epic battle, where The Buffs stood firm although badly mauled, the British eventually winning the day and putting such fear of Redcoats into the French infantry that it led to their defeat at Waterloo in 1815.

To show 'entente cordiale' we have a trip to Caen in September, to near where 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) lumbered ashore in their flame-throwing tanks in 1944 to rescue our erstwhile foes from German occupation.

For all enquiries about the Association and its activities, call The Regimental Secretary, Major Dennis Bradley, on 01227 818052.

If you were in 8 Platoon, C Company in Kenya (1961), the then platoon commander, Mick Stanley, is holding a reunion in May and would like to contact missing members. Email him at salandmick@yahoo.co.uk or find him through me.

Colonel Crispin Champion, President of the Regimental Association, Tunbridge Wells

Speed cuts would be safer all round

Ian Taylor is, as usual, uninformed (Letters, February 19). First, Green Party petitioning throughout Kent and Medway has shown almost universal support for 20mph limits in residential areas.

Little wonder that there are a growing number of local authorities in the UK committed to this policy. These can be seen at the 20 Is Plenty website, www.20splentyforus.org.uk.

Secondly, drivers conditioned by general 20mph limits will drive accordingly throughout urban areas, keeping both air pollution and accidents down.

When 30kmh (18.6mph) zones were introduced in Germany, car drivers changed gear 12 per cent less often, braked 14 per cent less often and required 12 per cent less fuel, which negates Ian Taylor's arguments about pollution.

Also, if drivers feel 20mph limits will add time to their journeys, they will consider other options – as people already do – such as walking, cycling, public transport or buying over the internet. So 20mph limits are an important and low-cost route to relieving both traffic congestion and air pollution.

Thirdly, the recent 52 per cent increase in child deaths recorded by Kent Police on our roads clearly justifies a variety of measures, including 20mph limits, to prevent such tragedies falling upon families.

It would be exceptionally callous to maintain 30mph limits, given this evidence.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party, Tonbridge

Putting straight the record on transport

Thank you for printing my letter in response to Cllr Green's letter. If possible I would like to comment on his latest letter.

1) My letter did not imply that it was a "Not in my back yard" syndrome. It was purely on economic and financial grounds. There is an abundance of land surrounding the perimeter of Manston Airport. He says he welcomes moves to improve journey times to London and a possible daily link to a European Airport. Yet once again he is against the expansion of Manston into an international airport, denying work to the unemployed of Thanet. The proposed rail link is a high-speed link direct to the airport at Cliffsend, not into Ramsgate. Where are the brownfield sites in Ramsgate that he speaks of?

2) Ramsgate station and other stations in the area already have an excellent service to London, not only via Faversham, but also Ashford, for tourism. I am surprised he feels Mr Byers, the other correspondent, has insulted the residents of Ramsgate.

3) I am a frequent visitor to Ramsgate, but regrettably have to differ with Cllr Green. Has he been down the High Street and Harbour Street lately and seen the closed shops that have been put out of business since the Westwood shopping complex opened some six miles from the centre of Ramsgate?

4) I think that Cllr Green lives in a place other than Ramsgate. Perhaps he is too young to remember the Merry England Funfair and the fantastic open air swimming pool at the end of the seafront. He should consult his older colleagues on the local council for their memories.

TJ Aird, Sheerness-on-Sea

Recycling bags are a hazard to all

Do you get the blues... and whites when recycling day comes round?

I have never seen so much blue and white outside Gills match days. At least the footie fans get out of the road when a car comes.

These new recycling bags just lay in the road and are a hazard to all. Drivers' attention is distracted by trying to avoid running over the bags and getting them tangled under the car.

Hazardous to children, should they step into the road without looking, the drivers' concentration isn't where it should be.

I have contacted the council on several occasions on this, but get fobbed off with jargonese, as is their way.

If we reverted to the old blue and white sacks, firstly they can be tied tightly and no one can look through papers for personal identities. Secondly, they are not open to the elements and risk contents being blown away. The council insist the velcro stops this happening, but it still happens. Thirdly, if we recycle plastic carrier bags, in fact plastic all sorts, then surely the sacks themselves are recyclable?

Lastly, it would negate the collectors having to waste their time returning the bags to our properties as the sacks can

be thrown in the cart as is, and I'm sure a time and motion study would show an extra half hour per road cleared.

Thought the council had to make cuts? Maybe if they left well alone in the first place they would be saving money and not causing problems for recyclers, drivers, pedestrians and tax payers.

Miss Herd, Gillingham

Labour the cause of our predicament

Re: Cuts being made by lunatic Government.

This government must be very brave taking on the mess the Labour Government left behind. If Labour hadn't run this country into the ground, by allowing the unemployed to receive more money than the workers, encouraging underage kids to get pregnant by waving a home under their noses. Even giving them disposable nappies, instead of making them wash their own. Allowing them so much money they can eat out most days, even allowing them enough money to run cars, 50ins televisions, etc. Encouraging more and more immigrants into the country without teaching them our language, not insisting on health checks and allowing TB to return. The Labour government ruined our NHS system, which will now take years to undo all the harm it has done.

We once had the best health service in the whole world, now we have to go to France, Spain, or Germany to get any decent atten-

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It's jobs for Kent

Boosting the pool of IT talent



HANDS ON: Northgate Managed Services will be helping train 10 new IT apprentices over an 18-month period

TEN new IT apprentices will be starting an 18-month training programme in Tonbridge as part of a new scheme from Northgate Managed Services.

The young workers will be attending Hugh Christie College one day a week to study for an NVQ Level 3 in IT systems and support, and will receive hands-on training at some of the schools across Kent that Northgate provides services to.

Each apprentice will be given a personal development plan which develops core skills and competencies such as communication, time management, customer service, problem solving and more.

Northgate chief executive Andy Ross said: "As a successful and growing IT services company we are committed to working with young people in the communities where we are based."

"By offering an IT apprenticeship scheme to school leavers, we are developing a qualified and talented workforce that will help us grow our business and provide

Kent with an influx of new IT talent. Hugh Christie is at the forefront of educational technology to drive teaching and learning. We are proud to be working with such an inspirational team to help deliver on-the-job training as part of our apprenticeship."

On completion of the programme, every successful apprentice will hold a formal NVQ qualification, have 18 months of work experience and the potential to move into permanent positions in Northgate.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for education, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said: "The Northgate scheme offers young people a fantastic opportunity to gain practical skills and work experience while working towards a nationally recognised qualification."

"These modern apprenticeships are exactly the type of initiatives we need to deliver to make sure students are equipped to meet the needs of a 21st century workforce."

Email info@northgate-is.com for more information.

Returning to full fitness

A SCHEME aimed at supporting employees suffering from ill health is being run through Kent County Council.

The Fit for Work project is a free service that works with employers, staff, GPs and other specialists to provide personal 'back-to-work' support and advice in the early stages of sickness.

It also helps tackle underlying health conditions and any other barriers to work.

Patricia Smith runs a private nursing home in Temple Ewell, near Dover, but when one of her employees required nursing care following an operation on her spine, she needed some back-up.

"My kitchen supervisor Jenny is a hard-working and dedicated member of staff," she said. "And I knew she would be desperate to

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

be back at work full-time as soon as possible.

"When you're a small business, as we are, having a member of staff off sick can be tough. However, I knew if Jenny returned too soon and took on too much that we would be back to the drawing board and that her recovery could take so much longer."

A referral to the Fit for Work service can be made by employers, the member of staff themselves, or their GP.

Once a referral is made, one of the scheme's health professionals will contact the employee to discuss a personalised programme and will be able to call on the help of a team of occupational therapists, employment specialists, psychologists and physiotherapists.

"They explained the service to me and I knew Jenny would benefit from their advice," said Patricia. "They met with Jenny and me, and we talked through some of the issues she was experiencing. We agreed on a 'return to work' plan which included shorter days, part-time hours and lighter duties to start with, until she

felt fitter. They also liaised with her GP and other medical staff to ensure she was on the road to recovery throughout the process."

According to KCC, the total cost of working-age ill health in the UK exceeds £100 billion per year and can have a serious impact on business – particularly small and medium-sized companies. However, thanks to the Fit for Work scheme Jenny is now back at work full-time just six months on from her operation.

Patricia said: "Having the Fit for Work service endorse my concerns really helped. I would certainly use the service again. It's like having an extra pair of hands to help with staff issues. I would recommend the service to anyone."

Call 01843 830220 for more information or write to the Fit for Work Service, St Augustine's Business Centre, 125 Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, CT8 8NL.

WHAT is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Are you running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are your employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or are you funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

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Tools of the skilled trade

CONSTRUCTION students from across the county will battle it out in the annual Kent Skilled Up competition next month.

Young people aged 16 to 19 will tackle a series of tasks in the Makita-sponsored event, including brickwork, joinery, carpentry, plastering, tiling, electrical, and painting and decorating.

The heats will be held at five colleges throughout the county, with the final – hosted by BBC Grand Designs presenter Roger Bisby – at Thanet College on June 29.

Prizes of tools, gift vouchers and certificates will be awarded to first, second and third in each discipline.

Makita's regional sales manager David Hales said: "It's good to be working with the Kent colleges again and we're pleased to be sharing the skills of our demonstrators, who do a fabulous job with the students."

"Taking part isn't mandatory but will give

contestants experience in being competitive, in working well and efficiently, and in helping prepare for professional life."

The first heats for this year's Skilled Up competition will be held at MidKent College, the Broadstairs and Ramsgate campuses of Thanet College, and Canterbury College on Wednesday, March 2.

The final batch will be on the following day at the Dartford and Gravesend campuses of North West Kent College, and the Ashford and Folkestone campuses of K College.

The competition is also being backed by the family-run Thanet Tool Supplies of Ashford.

Managing director Paul Brown said: "Helping young people while they train is to everyone's benefit and they deserve to have the best equipment and materials to work with if they are to do well. We're behind them all the way."



EYE TO EYE: David Keefe (inset) attracted the BBC's interest with *An Audience With*



Striking a chord on CBBC

A GRADUATE from the University for the Creative Arts at Rochester is in the running to have his short film for children picked up by the BBC.

David Keefe, 22, who earned a first-class honours degree in computer-generated arts and animation, uploaded *An Audience With* to the CBBC website with hopes it will be developed into a full series.

Children who visit the site are being asked to vote for the film, which is about a

boy who is tormented by neighbours while trying to play his guitar.

David said: "Getting work on CBBC is a massive achievement for a recent graduate like me."

"It would be fantastic if they wanted to commission a series. I've got lots more ideas to evolve the characters in the film."

"Obviously it would be a challenge to get a team together, but being thrown in at the deep end is how I work best."

The best of Times at Kent

THE University of Kent has been ranked joint 15th in the UK in *The Times'* annual student experience survey.

The study – which scores universities in categories including quality of teaching, work experience and social life – also ranks Kent 10th for the most improved student experience.

Pro-vice-chancellor Prof Alex Hughes wel-

comed the findings.

He said: "This important feedback from our students reflects the quality of experience we aim to provide."

"By listening to students we will continue to develop all aspects of our academic, social and environmental provision – factors that have made the University of Kent one of the most popular in the UK."

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It is a full-time permanent post attracting a salary of **£15,594 per annum**. Application forms can be collected from **Edenbridge Town Council, Doggetts Barn, 72A High St, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5AR** or by email from townclerk@edenbridgetowncouncil.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is **noon Monday 7 March 2011**

Interviews to be held on **Monday 14 March**

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White Cottage Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3PU

TEACHER OF FRENCH

FULL TIME

Required for September 2011

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Teacher of French. The successful candidate will be delivering GCSE French as part of our English Baccalaureate.

Hugh Christie Technology College is a good school with outstanding features.

Located in a total new build, the school has a national and international reputation for the use of technology and curriculum innovation.

For further information contact **Jenny Rutherford**
jrutherford@hughchristie.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: **18th March 2011**

Interviews to be held: week commencing 28th March 2011

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. As part of this process, all successful candidates will be required to apply for an enhanced CRB disclosure.

To advertise in this section
01892 779650

Westlands Academies Trust



THE WESTLANDS SCHOOL & THE WESTLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

Interested in a career in teaching and joining our Graduate Teacher Training Programme?

Westlands Academies Trust has vacancies for graduates who wish to undertake school-based teacher training, whilst receiving financial support. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Applications are invited from graduates who are interested in teaching Science or Design Technology at Secondary level, and in the Primary sector, all subjects in the curriculum.

Westlands Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals.

Application forms are available from the school or online. These should be returned with a CV and letter of application. CVs are not accepted without an application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 9 March 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust Company No 7344732



Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

.....a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for...

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

£15,039 - £19,126 pro-rata + SEN Allowance (£1,177)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties.

Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am – 3.45pm), term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 11.3.11



JobsforKent.co.uk

Accountancy

Booke-Keeper/Account Administrator

Marden

Salary Competitive salary
We are seeking a first class book-keeper / account administrator, with an enthusiastic and committed approach, to work in our Head Office based in Marden, Kent to start as soon as possible. A good working knowledge of SageExcellent communication skillsAbility to work as part of a team and to play a key role in this growing companySelf motivated and organisedAt least two years' experience in a similar position The Kindergartens are a family run group of successful and well established nursery schools situated in Central London. A competitive salary and conditions are offered. For further details and a full description of the post please email: nicky.peckham@thekindergartens.co.uk The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment
To apply/more information: Kindergarten nicky.peckham@thekindergartens.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary TBC
Full-time/Part-time
Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre. The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately.
Administrator and PA to Doctor of a rapidly expanding health care practice. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics). Basic computer skills are preferable. Proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher. A/C Hard working and motivated. A/C Organised and efficient. Work well solo. A/C Works well within a team. A/C Thrives on self improvement and success.
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISCT1

Bookkeeper

Capel-le-ferne

Salary Negotiable
Part time Bookkeeper/Must have experience in company accounts/reportsWages negotiable for both positions. To become part of a valued team please contact Fiona on 01303 248828.
To apply/more information: DMS applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury

Salary 14k
Working hours are: 32 hours Mon - Fri: 6.30am - 12.30pm Tues 1.30pm-3.30pmCan you ... provide excellent service "Walt Disney style"? Are you: • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient • Work well solo as well as be part of a team • Thrive on self improvement and success? Then we have the job for you! We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics). Basic computer skills are preferable and some experience in a similar post although full training will be given. If you think you have what we are looking for and consider yourself to be confident and outgoing, please apply in writing with your CV to: Dr Tracy Harley, The Wellness Practice Ltd, 30 Whitstable Road, Bleau n Canterbury, Kent CT2 9EB
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

Marketing, Sales and Communication

Canterbury

Salary 14k (starting salary)
Hours of Work: 31 hours Monday and Thurs 6.30am- 12.30pm, 2pm-6.30pm Tues 1.30pm- 6.30pm Wed 2pm-7pmMOTIVATED & READY We are looking for someone who has an ability to communicate confidently with

members of the public with a level of service that exceeds expectation. This role is office based within the health and wellness sector and also includes community based events for promotions. Only apply if you are interested in personal growth, development and a career. Whilst the role has a base salary depending on your demonstrative skills, there is huge potential for bonuses for any applicant. That is why you have to be the kind of person who enjoys having goals and helping people get well and stay well. If you love success, you are eager to help people and want to make a difference, please apply immediately or send you CV to: Dr Tracy Harley, The Wellness Practice, 30 Whitstable Road, Bleau n, Canterbury, CT2 9EB.
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary 14k
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISCT1

Data Entry Clerks

Canterbury, Maidstone, Dover

Salary £250 Per Week
Data Entry Clerks needed in our Clients Offices in Canterbury / Maidstone / Dover to enter data onto a database. Data Entry Skills required. Will also be answering calls from businesses / companies and checking emails. We are an Data Processing Company with Offices throughout the UK. £250 Per Week Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm. Immediate Start. To Apply please email your CV to dataworks@job4u.com or Text your name & number to our Office Mobile 07951 479238.
To apply/more information: Dataworks Ltd dataworks@job4u.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

OFFICE MANAGER

Thanet

Salary TBC
OFFICE MANAGER Job Share, 16 hours weekly rising to 24. One morning a week plus afternoons. Also covering mornings for holidays and other absence. Flexible and enthusiastic individual able to work with our current Office Manager to support our small but growing team of professional teachers covering Britain and Ireland. Requires efficiency and skill to develop the office management, sympathetic telephone manner with enquires and energetic promotional skills with partners such as doctors, therapists, yoga teachers, business and the media. A varied and challenging position, but low-stress as there are, at present, no staff to manage!REQUIRES experience of Microsoft Office, Access and Outlook, plus lively practical knowledge of use of the most up to date computer program's.APPLICATIONS WITH C.V. TO: Colin & Sue Beckley, Directors, The Meditation Trust, 51 Station Road, Birkington, CT79DJ FOR INFO PACK ABOUT TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION COURSES CALL 01843 841010.
To apply/more information: Meditation Trust applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator

Thanet

Salary £8,245.49 - £9,392 pa
The Secret Jungle is an innovative new project basedat Northdown Park, Margate. It is intended to offer anoutdoor play space designed around the needs andwishes of disabled children of all ages, but wherenon-disabled children can also play. The Children'sSociety have worked closely with local partnersincluding parents of disabled children to create afacility to meet their needs within the community andto develop inclusive play. Part-time Administrator £8,245.49 - £9,392 pa Ref: SO2009/KOS You'll provide efficient and well-ordered administrativeservices to The Secret Jungle Project. You'll be educatedto GCSE standard or equivalent be an experiencedadministrator with good interpersonal skills. A soundknowledge of MS Office is essential. The post requires occasional unsocial hours including weekends andsome travel to attend meetings. Hours of work willbe 16 per week. For further information or an informal discussion onthe above roles, contact Ivan O'Reilly/Joaana

Stirlandon 01227 741748. Posts supported by the Big Lottery.As well as a strong commitment to your developmentwe offer generous holidays, contributory stakeholderpensions, childcare vouchers and flexible working.To apply, please visit www.playyourpart.co.uk or call uson 0121 362 8618 quoting the relevant reference number.Closing date for all posts: 27th February 2011. All our recruitment documents are available inalternative formats. Please note CV's will not be accepted.The Children's Society wants to create a society where children are valued, respected and happy. We are committed to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, including children in care, or those who have run away. We give a voice to disabled children so their needs are met in ways suited to them. Through our work, young carers find time away from their responsibilities, andyoung refugees have a chance to rebuild their lives in new communities. Children are at the heart of all we do, and we want to build a better childhood for every child.Charity Registration No. 22112.
To apply/more information: Childrens Society applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: SO2009/KOS

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Fencing Installers

South East Area

Salary Negotiable
PEMBURY FENCING LTD SUB-CONTRACT Fencing Installers required for work in theSOUTH EAST AREA Must have own vehicle,tools and plant. References required Please ring 01480 474400 or email Sonia@pemburygroup.co.uk
To apply/more information: Pembury Group applications@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

TOWNSCAPE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

Folkestone

Salary £25,620 - £30,201
TOWNSCAPE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER Location: Civic Centre, Folkestone Salary: £25,620 - £30,201 plus essential car user allowance Shepway is a coastal district undergoing a transformation through a range of public and private sector initiatives. To complement this activity, the district is keen to ensure that the urban environment across all its towns is improved. As such, a new post has been created within the Economic Regeneration Team to tackle townscape issues. Your role will be to develop a Townscape Improvement Strategy for the district in collaboration with partner organisations and implement it through a wide range of initiatives. Application details on this exciting new position can be accessed via www.shepway.gov.uk or alternatively if you would like to discuss this post, please contact Jeremy Whittaker, Economic Regeneration Team Leader on 01303 853375. The closing date for applications is 4 March 2011 Provisional Interview date is 18 March 2011.
To apply/more information: Shepway District Council jobs@shepway.gov.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Chefs and Commis Chefs

Ramsgate

Salary Negotiable
Chefs and Commis Chefs/Full Time required for new exciting restaurantopening in Canterbury. For more information please callAdrian on 07979 828292Or email: itsandyb@btinternet.com
To apply/more information: culturia@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Kitchen Manager

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable
The Old ButtermarketRequire an experienced Kitchen Manager and Chef for busy pub located in the centre on Canterbury. **Salary** TBA. Please contact Lindsey on 01227 462170 for more information.
To apply/more information: Old Buttermarket applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable

The Old ButtermarketRequire an experienced Kitchen Manager and Chef for busy pub located in the centre on Canterbury. **Salary** TBA. Please contact Lindsey on 01227 462170 for more information
To apply/more information: Old Buttermarket applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

PART TIME CAFE BAR ASSISTANT

Ashford

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

Cover Supervisors

All over Kent

Salary Negotiable
Calling all Teachers & Cover SupervisorsPrimary, Secondary and SEN Education Our professional team can offer: • Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities • Excellent rates of pay - paid weekly • Free in-service training and CPD Courses • An out-of-hours service 24/7. Whether you require daily, short term, long term or permanent roles across Kent and the SEwe would love to hear from you. To find out more information and to register with us, please call us on:0845 450 1496 or email: kentteam@ttip.co.uk
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@ttip.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teachers

All Kent

Salary Negotiable
Calling all Teachers & Cover SupervisorsPrimary, Secondary and SEN Education. Our professional team can offer: • Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities • Excellent rates of pay - paid weekly • Free in-service training and CPD Courses • An out-of-hours service 24/7. Whether you require daily, short term, long term or permanent roles across Kent and the SEwe would love to hear from you. To find out more information and to register with us, please call us on:0845 450 1496 or email: kentteam@ttip.co.uk
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@ttip.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teaching Positions

Medway

Salary TBC
Education Sense Limited has various positions available. Ranging from Nursery Nurses, Therapists, and Qualified Teachers. To find out more, visit our website, www.education-sense.com Or talk to one of our office members on 01634 817575, or email office@education-sense.com.
To apply/more information: Education Sense office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: Gen

Foster Carers

All Kent

Salary £325 per week
Have you got room in your heart, your home and your life?We need short and long term foster carers who can give a child the support they need through difficult times.Pay starts at £325 per week and lots of training is given.We offer all of our carers two weeks paid breaker year plus 4 hours sitting each week. If you areinterested in fostering and would like to be part ofwhat we do, please call us now at Family MattersFostering to arrange a local interview.01303 210029 www.fosteringagency.com
To apply/more information: Family Matters Fostering Ltd morag@fml.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator

Thanet

Salary £8,245.49 - £9,392 pa
The Secret Jungle is an innovative new project basedat Northdown Park, Margate. It is intended to offer anoutdoor play space designed around the needs andwishes of disabled children of all ages, but wherenon-disabled children can also play. The Children'sSociety have worked closely with local partnersincluding parents of disabled children to create afacility to meet their needs within the community andto develop inclusive play. Part-time Administrator £8,245.49 - £9,392 pa Ref: SO2009/KOS You'll provide efficient and well-ordered administrativeservices to The Secret Jungle Project. You'll be educatedto GCSE standard or equivalent and be an experienced administrator with good interpersonal skills. A soundknowledge of MS Office is essential. The post requires occasional unsocial hours including weekends andsome travel to attend meetings. Hours of work willbe 16 per week. For further information or an informal



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JobsforKent.co.uk

PART TIME CAFE BAR ASSISTANT

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
- PART TIME CAFE BAR ASSISTANTKent (Ashford) As the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, Bannatynes offers state of the art facilities in over 60 convenient locations to over 180,000 members.Please call Mike for further information on01303 270888. Please apply via our websitewww.bannatyne.co.uk
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

PART TIME MALE DOMESTIC

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

FITNESS ADVISOR

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
- FITNESS ADVISOR(Casual) Kent (Folkestone) As the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, Bannatynes's offers state of the art facilities in over 60 convenient locations to over 180,000 members.Please call Mike for further information on01303 270888. Please apply via our websitewww.bannatyne.co.uk
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

OFFICE MANAGER

Thanet
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Meditation Trust applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

Sat/Sun Night Security

Tunbridge Wells
Salary £8k+Health+Pension
West Kent YMCA Supported HousingTunbridge Wells Sat/Sun Night Security £8k+ Health+Pension Closing 2/3/11 Interview 7/3/11 Must be SIA registered Contact: Andrea 07889707824
www.WestKentYMCA.org.uk
To apply/more information: West Kent YMCA hr@WestKentYMCA.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health,Safety & Environmental Technician

North Kent
Salary c£24,500 plus benefits
To apply/more information: Interpersonnel jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk Quoting Job Ref: 1723

HR, Recruitment

Bookkeeper

Capel-le-ferne
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: DMS applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN

Medway
Salary circa £30k
To apply/more information: Fuji Seal Europe Ltd jobs@uk.fujiaseal.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Wellness Coaches

Work from Home
Salary £1000.00+ per mnth
A REWARDING NEW CAREER IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS Personal Wellness Coaches required P/T hours to suit-work from home Full Training and Support available £1,000.00+ per mnth Call Estelle on 01622 664861
www.ambakent.biz
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chefs and Commis Chefs

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
Chefs and Commis ChefsPart/Full Timerequired for new exciting restaurantopening in CanterburyFor more information please callAdrian on 07979 828292or email: itsandyb@btinternet.com
To apply/more information: Belgian Cafe culturia@hotmail.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Kitchen Manager

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
The Old ButtermarketRequire an experienced Kitchen Manager and Chef for busy pub located in the centre on Canterbury. Salary TBA.Please contact Lindsey on 01227 462170 for more information.
To apply/more information: Old Buttermarket applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
The Old ButtermarketRequire an experienced Kitchen Manager and Chef for busy pub located in the centre on Canterbury. Salary TBA.Please contact Lindsey on 01227 462170 for more information.
To apply/more information: Old Buttermarket applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

FITNESS ADVISOR

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
- MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR(Full time) Kent (Folkestone) As the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, Bannatynes's offers state of the art facilities in over 60 convenient locations to over 180,000 members.Please call Mike for further information on 01303 270888. Please apply via our websitewww.bannatyne.co.uk
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

PART TIME BEAUTY THERAPISTS

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

PART TIME CAFE BAR ASSISTANT

Ashford
Salary Negotiable

- PART TIME CAFE BAR ASSISTANTKent (Ashford) As the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, Bannatynes's offers state of the art facilities in over 60 convenient locations to over 180,000 members.Please call Mike for further information on01303 270888. Please apply via our websitewww.bannatyne.co.uk
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

PART TIME MALE DOMESTIC

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

FITNESS ADVISOR

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

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01892 779650

Management, Senior Positions

Part-Time Manager

Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: S.Simmonds & Son Ltd marion@simmonds-ltd.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Deputy Manager

New Romney
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Sandbanks Care Home adam@belmontsandsbanks.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

OFFICE MANAGER

Thanet
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: Meditation Trust applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Deputy Manager

New Romney
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Sandbanks Care Home adam@belmontsandsbanks.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Community Carers

Herne Bay
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Enterprising Opportunities M.Hawkes@enterprisingopps.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Massage Therapist

Canterbury
Salary 9-18 k per annum + bonuses
FULLTIME PART-TIME/JOBSHARE Positon available at Kent's leading Spinal Health Care Practice in Canterbury. We are looking for hardworking and motivated massage therapists who are:

Enthusiastic and committed to helping people Organised and efficient A Team Player Driven to attain self improvement and success Must have basic Massage qualification further in house training given Basic computer skills preferable No Clinical experience necessary as full training will be given NEW GRADUATES WELCOME! Apply for this position if you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing Earning ability fromm £8000 - £22000 per annum If you think you have what we are looking for, please apply in writing with your C.V. to Recruitment Manager, The Wellness Practice LTD Bleau Canterbury Kent CT2 9EB.
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001

Registered Nurse

Nr Sandwich
Salary Negotiable
HIGH VIEW OAST CARE HOME Poulton Lane, Ash, Nr Sandwich, CT3 2HN01304 813333

We have a vacancy for a full-timeRegistered NurseHigh View is a friendly village care homePlease phone Sheelagh Sandford for an informal chat or interview.
To apply/more information: High View Oast Nursing Home highviewoast@new_meronden.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Wellness Coaches

Work from Home
Salary £1000.00+ per mnth
To apply/more information: Arriba applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Flexi Day Care Assistants

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Workers

Chatham
Salary Negotiable
Staff required for small home in Lordswood,Chatham, to work the following shifts4pm-8am nights3 nights first week and 4 nights second weekPlease ring for an information pack on 01634 579505.
To apply/more information: Project for Independent Lifestyle applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domiciliary Care Workers

Canterbury & Thanet
Salary £7.00 per hour weekdays £8.30 per hour Saturdays & Sundays Bluebird Care (Canterbury & Thanet) have immediate vacancies in the Canterbury area for ...Domiciliary Care WorkersMust want to work to the highest possible standards, experience of caring for adults or children is desirable. You should be available for work mornings or evenings and alternate weekends and must have own transport. You will ideally have a relevant qualification or be prepared to work towards one. Uniform provided...£7.00 per hour weekdays £8.30 per hour Saturdays & Sundays; Mileage paid @ 30pence per mile. Please telephone 01843 570638 or 01227 206473; or email Canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk for an application pack stating which post you wish to apply for.
To apply/more information: Bluebird Care canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Helpline Co-ordinator

Northfleet
Salary See below
Helpline Co-ordinatorFor the Kent & Medway Dementia HelplineFixed term contract to 31st March 2012. Working from home,

2 days per week (Thursday & Friday) 9am - 5pmEscalation cover, evenings 5pm-9pm & every second weekend Saturday & Sunday 9am - 5pm with occasional trips to the office in Northfleet.Take helpline calls 9am - 5pm Thursday & Friday & provide escalation (telephone support) cover to volunteers evenings and weekendsNVQ 3 in care, Adult protection & MCA

advantageous RATE OF PAY--£8.50 per hour (Thursday & Friday 9am-5pm, ½ hour lunch unpaid) £7.50 paid per evening escalation 5pm-9pm (Thursday & Friday)--£30 per weekend session (Saturday & Sunday inclusive)Escalation cover does not tie you to a specific place and is covered by mobile phone. To request an application pack please call 01474 533990Closing date for completed applications Wednesday 2nd March
To apply/more information: Alzheimers & Dementia Support applications@btconnect.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Flexi Day Care Assistants

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone. We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodehealthcare.co.ukSubject to satisfactory CRB Check
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Other

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent
Salary TBC
Earn an increasing monthly income... Generous Payments. Free BMW Mini. Luxury Holidays. Company Porsche. 1,000s of people can earn a second income in their spare time, in partnership with the Utility Warehouse. YOU COULD TOO! Make money by saving people money. No experience necessary. Fantastic benefits! Find out more! Call 0800 781 2433. Get paid every month, for work you do once! www.minibills.co.uk Home phone, Mobile, Internet, Gas, Electricity ALL IN ONE SIMPLE BILL *Best Buy www.which.co.uk
To apply/more information: Utility Warehouse albanarnett@telecomplus.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

Community Carers

Herne Bay
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Enterprising Opportunities M.Hawkes@enterprisingopps.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Sector, Social Services

Cover Supervisors

All over Kent
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@ttp.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Teachers

All Kent
Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information: London Teaching Pool Ltd kentteam@ttp.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Registered Nurse

Nr Sandwich
Salary Negotiable
HIGH VIEW OAST CARE HOME Poulton Lane, Ash, Nr Sandwich, CT3 2HN01304 813333
We have a vacancy for a full-timeRegistered NurseHigh View is a friendly village care homePlease phone Sheelagh Sandford for an informal chat or interview.
To apply/more information: High View Oast Nursing Home highviewoast@new_meronden.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Flexi Day Care Assistants

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone. We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodehealthcare.co.ukSubject to satisfactory CRB Check
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Night Workers

Chatham
Salary Negotiable
Staff required for small home in Lordswood, Chatham, to work the following shifts 4pm-8am nights 3 nights first week and 4 nights second week. Please ring for an information pack on 01634 579505.
To apply/more information: Project for Independent Lifestyle applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domiciliary Care Workers

Canterbury & Thanet
Salary £7.00 per hour weekdays £8.30 per hour Saturdays & Sundays Bluebird Care (Canterbury & Thanet) have immediate vacancies in the Canterbury area for ...Domiciliary Care WorkersMust want to work to the highest possible standards, experience of caring for adults or children is desirable. You should be available for work mornings or evenings and alternate weekends and must have own transport. You will ideally have a relevant qualification or be prepared to work towards one. Uniform provided...£7.00 per hour weekdays £8.30 per hour Saturdays & Sundays; Mileage paid @ 30pence per mile. Please telephone 01843 570638 or 01227 206473; or email Canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk for an application pack stating which post you wish to apply for.
To apply/more information: Bluebird Care canterbury@bluebirdcare.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Support Workers

Sidcup
Salary Negotiable
We look after people with Learning Difficultiesand who may have challenging behaviours.We are currently recruiting for the following • Support Workers • Waking Night Staff you have a passion for the role, call Colin Millernow! CRB checks necessaryLoring Hall, 8 Water Lane, Sidcup, Kent, DA14 5ESTel: 020 8302 9302 Email: colin@oakfields.net
To apply/more information: Oakfields Care loring@oakfields.net Quoting Job Ref: kos

Waking Night Staff

Sidcup
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Oakfields Care loring@oakfields.net Quoting Job Ref: kos

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

Dover
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Dover Grammar School for Boys applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Graduate Teacher Training Programme

Ramsgate
Salary £15,817 pa
To apply/more information: Marlowe Academy amanda.mulvihill@marloweacademy.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Foster Carers

All Kent
Salary £325 per week
To apply/more information: Family Matters Fostering Ltd morag@fml.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Support Staff

Herne Bay
Salary £6.48 ph
To apply/more information: HMT Care Ltd applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

TOWNSCAPE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER

Folkestone
Salary £25,620 - £30,201
TOWNSCAPE IMPROVEMENT OFFICERLocation: Civic Centre, Folkestone Salary: £25,620 - £30,201 plus essential car user allowance Shepway is a coastal district undergoing a transformation through a range of public and private sector initiatives. To complement this activity, the district is keen to ensure that the urban environment across all its towns is improved. As such, a new post has been created within the Economic Regeneration Team to tackle townscape issues. Your role will be to develop a Townscape Improvement Strategy for the district in collaboration with partner organisations and implement it through a wide range of initiatives. Application details on this exciting new position can be accessed via www.shepway.gov.uk or alternatively if you would like to discuss this post, please contact Jeremy Whittaker, Economic Regeneration Team Leader on 01303 853375. The closing date for applications is 4 March 2011 Provisional Interview date is 18 March 2011.
To apply/more information: Shepway District Council jobs@shepway.gov.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator

Thanet
Salary £8,245.49 - £9,392 pa
To apply/more information: Childrens Society applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: S02009/KOS

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Telesales

Maidstone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Theme Events sjainsbury@btconnect.com Quoting Job Ref: REC500

Part-Time Manager

Tunbridge Wells
Salary TBC
To apply/more information: S.Simmonds & Son Ltd marion@simmonds-ltd.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Tele-Sales Consultant

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Churchill House School of English gill@churchillhouse.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
- MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR (Full time) Kent (Folkestone) As the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, Bannatynes's offers state of the art facilities in over 60 convenient locations to over 180,000 members.Please call Mike for further information on01303 270888. Please apply via our websitewww.bannatyne.co.uk
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

PART TIME BEAUTY THERAPISTS

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
- PART TIME BEAUTY THERAPISTS Kent (Ashford) As the largest independently owned health club operator in the UK, Bannatynes's offers state of the art facilities in over 60 convenient locations to over 180,000 members. Please call Mike for further information on01303 270888. Please apply via our websitewww.bannatyne.co.uk
To apply/more information: Bannatynes Health Club applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Car Sales Trainee

Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Saab Canterbury reception@canterburysaab.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

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To apply/more information: Utility Warehouse albanarnett@telecomplus.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Scientific & Pharmaceutical, Research

Senior Laboratory Technician

Westgate on Sea
Salary £16,793, £18,471 PA
To apply/more information: Ursuline College J.Christison@ursuline.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

3 - 6 month temp shift Chemist

North Kent
Salary c-£14/hour plus retention bonus
Providing 12 hour, 7 day analytical service working 42 hour week 6am-6pm or 7am-7pm on flexible rota - Lone working weekends. Purpose of role is to ensure all assays/analysis are carried out to timelines according to H & M legislation. Preparation, analysis and calibration of samples, solutions and equipment.

Analysts require a deg in Analytical Chemistry/Chemistry with 2 - 3 years experience in OES, AA, ICP and Wet Chemical Analysis plus production / process experience.
To apply/more information: Interpersonnel jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk Quoting Job Ref: 1724

**Kent County Council
Inclusive Design and Placemaking
Supplementary Appendix to Kent Design Guide
Notice of Public Participation
Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)**

Statutory Instrument No.2204 Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, amended 2008 - Regulation 17 Developed collaboratively between Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Inclusive Design and Placemaking (hereinafter Inclusive Design) supports the Kent Design Guide (KDG) by providing specific detail and technical guidance on how to address accessibility for all in Kent's future built environment. It is intended Inclusive Design will ultimately be adopted by Kent County Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the KDG. As such, the document will act as a reference point for developers and their landscape, urban design and planning consultants at an early stage in the planning process, as well as a key reference tool for County, Unitary and District Authorities who are responsible for good quality design of the public realm in Kent.

Inclusive Design applies specifically to the public realm, including arrival at a building or public space. The guidance can facilitate how planners consider access issues early on in their pre-planning application discussions, and can help those determining planning applications to ensure proposed new developments meet specific design standards. Inclusive Design also provides links to relevant legislation, standards, guidance and best practice case studies, to ensure that a more comprehensive approach to accessibility is considered during the early stages of design and development. An Access Audit & Technical Guidance Toolkit has also been produced, to be read alongside the draft Inclusive Design document.

The Draft Inclusive Design document can be viewed online and downloaded from Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/inclusivedesignandplacemaking and is available for public inspection at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone. Copies will also be made available for inspection at all libraries and gateways from Monday to Friday during normal opening hours.

Any person or organisation may make representations on the document, which will be considered before adoption. Those wishing to make comments are encouraged to use the Council's web-based consultation system or the comments forms available with inspection copies of the documents and on the Council's website.

Representations relating to the draft Inclusive Design document can be returned as follows:

- (1) Online using the Council's web-based consultation system at: www.kent.gov.uk/inclusivedesignandplacemaking
- (2) By email to: kdconsultation@kent.gov.uk
- (3) By post to: The Project Support Team (Inclusive Design & Placemaking), Regeneration & Economy Division, Chief Executive's Department, KCC, 2nd floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Only representations that are made in writing (including electronically) and arrive at the addresses or the sites specified above within the six-week period from 28 February 2011 to 11 April 2011 will have the right to be considered.

Representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specific address when the Inclusive Design& Placemaking document is adopted.

Kent Design Initiative, Chief Executive's Directorate, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

**B2068 STONE STREET, PETHAM, CANTERBURY (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public and workforce during water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a Temporary Mandatory Speed Limit of 40 mph on B2068 Stone Street, Petham, Canterbury, on or after 28 February 2011 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The section of road affected is between the junction with Chequers Hill and the existing 40 mph / National Speed Limit to the south east of the junction with Chartham Downs Road, when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

**AGESTER LANE, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the installation of a new electrical supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Agester Lane, Denton, on or after 28 February 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Meg's Dean.

The alternative route is via Snode Hill, A260 Canterbury Road, Reece Lane, Golden Hill, Vershall Lane, Bunkers Hill and Agester Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

**COOPERS LANE, PENSURST - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Coopers Lane, Penshurst for 500m from Hamsell Oast in a south westerly direction.

The Order will become effective on 28th February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 4th March 2011 and last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Poundsbridge Hill and Coopers Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching and kerb installation.

For further information please contact Kent Highway services on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

**BRASTED LANE, KNOCKHOLT - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Brasted Lane, Knockholt between Stoneings Lane and Main Road.

The Order will become effective on 28th February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Stoneings Lane and Main Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a replacement pole and transfer of power cables.

**HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, Eynsford between Priory Lane and Bower Lane.

The Order will become effective on 28th February 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 nights between 21.00 – 05.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A225 Eynsford Road, A20 to Wrotham, A227 Borough Green Road/Wrotham Road, Western Road, A25 to Sevenoaks and A225 to Eynsford.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of high friction surfacing and carriageway markings.

**GRANVILLE ROAD, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Granville Road, Sevenoaks from its junction with London Road to the boundary of Granville Court.

The Order will become effective on 14th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Gordon Road, Argyle Road, London Road and Tubs Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate working space for the construction of a new highway retaining structure.

**BILLET HILL, ASH-CUM-RIDLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Billet Hill, Ash-Cum-Ridley between Fawkham Green Road to Ash Road.

The Order will become effective on 14th March 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Crowhurst Lane, Azo London Road, Ash Lane, South Ash Road and The Street.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

**(STILEBRIDGE LANE, LINTON)(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stilebridge Lane Linton on or after Tuesday 15th March Monday 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Butt Green Lane onto Linton Hill, Staplehurst Road, Forge Lane then onto Lower Farm Road

South East Water Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to provide a water connection to a property. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Lee MCarthy on 0773485456

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge and Malling

**(BASTED LANE, BOROUGH GREEN)(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Basted Lane outside of Landway Farm on or after Monday 28th February 2011 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Winfield Lane, Bourne Lane, Dux Hill, Dux Lane, Long Mill Lane, Basted Lane.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to enable duct installation. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Kenton Stewart on 01795 435729.

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2XQ

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

- 11/00221/FUL Flat 2 3A Nevill Park, Broadwater**
- Blocking existing doorway on east elevation and replacing the windows (5) on part of north elevation with windows and french doors (CA)
- 11/00333/HOUSE Little Manor Staplehurst Road, Frittenden**
- Replace existing glazed roof to conservatory with Cedar shingles and replace white with black guttering (as rest of house) (LB)
- 11/00335/LBC Little Manor Staplehurst Road, Frittenden**
- Listed Building Consent- Replace existing glazed roof to conservatory with Cedar shingles and replace white with black guttering (as rest of house); Remove modern sliding door separating conservatory from main house (LB)
- 11/00375/HOUSE The Old Rectory The Street, Frittenden**
- Detached double garage and woodstore (CA)
- 11/00388/LBC Shearnfold Farmhouse Church Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Proposed single storey rear extension and window/roof alterations (LB)
- 11/00351/LBC Hayle Oast Marle Place Road, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Minor alterations and improvements, including reinstating original features (LB)
- 11/00274/HOUSE 57 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Demolition of part ground floor and roof to chalet bungalow, construct two-storey side and rear extensions (CA)
- 11/00275/CAC 57 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of part ground floor and roof to chalet bungalow (CA)
- 11/00357/HOUSE 23 Claremont Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Single storey flat roof extension to side elevation. Cladding of external front and rear walls with featheredged weatherboarding (CA)
- 11/00244/HOUSE 8 Lansdowne Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Extension to rear conservatory (CA)
- 11/00377/FUL 62 Mount Pleasant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Extension of Time: Provision of roof extension and alterations to increase the number of self-contained residential flats from two to seven, including change of use of first floor area from ancillary offices to residential use (TW/07/04478/FUL refers) (CA)
- 11/00339/FUL Albans Barn Yard Romford Road, Pembury**
- Change of use and conversion of barn to part holiday let and part family annex (LB)
- 11/00336/FUL Johnson Of Sandhurst Back Road, Sandhurst**
- Replacement shopfront (CA) (LB)
- 11/00379/FUL St Nicholas Church Church Road, Sandhurst**
- Extension of Time - (Land adjacent) Change of use of land for extension of churchyard (TW/08/00987 refers) (LB)
- 11/00349/TELN5 STREET RECORD London Road, Southborough And High Brooms**
- Telecommunication Notification: A 12.5m high replica telegraph pole, 1no shared equipment cabinet, 1no slimline meter cabinet and development ancillary thereto (CA)
- (DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.
- You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.
- We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date. You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.
- Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 26 February 2011



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Ford's new Focus looks set to take on the world

First Drive

by

IAINDOOLEY

Ford Focus

EVEN if you don't claim to be a car enthusiast, it would be hard to ignore that the Focus has been a huge hit for Ford. It has been an almost permanent fixture at the top of the sales charts since its original launch, and been the benchmark others have been judged by ever since.

So what's new? In a nutshell, everything. Now positioned as a 'world car' within Ford, this Focus will be sold around the globe. That brings economies of scale, and is one reason why the car can be had with a range of good value optional equipment packages, such as an impressive safety kit bundle.

There's also a greater emphasis on economy and emissions, with the range kicking off with a 109g/km diesel and the promise

of more to come in the future. Engine start-stop technology plus the use of Ford's new EcoBoost petrol engines and fuel-sipping DSG Powershift gearboxes add to Ford's frugal approach to motoring.

It's not a hair shirt experience, though. In keeping with other recent new Fords, the Focus is a polished performer inside and out. Visually this third-generation car boasts a more streamlined and slippery profile. Inside, there's an equally high quality approach to fixtures and fittings.

The cabin is noticeably driver-centric, with the car's major controls close to hand. There's also no shortage of information available to the driver, what with a pair of clear electronic displays – one for the audio unit and one between the main dials.

Fans of the old car will feel right at home thanks to a familiar feel to the various types of switchgear. Newcomers will be faced by a more upbeat and engaging experience than what's available in some rivals, as the overall cabin ambience is lighter and brighter than the traditional German opposition.

It takes more than a cursory glance around the cabin to fully appreciate the lengths Ford has gone to in order to maintain its class-leading status. The same is true out on the road as, initially, the experience appears to have shifted considerably more towards comfort. What has Ford done with the car's sporty and engaging character?

In truth it never left, only this time it's been cleverly contained in a more refined and composed wrapper. Push a little harder in a corner and you'll soon experience some of the old Focus magic. Everything is so darn polished now – Volkswagen and the like should be worried.

Considerable praise should also be directed towards the engine department. Ford is offering 1.6 and 2.0-litre engines in both petrol and diesel, in a range of power outputs. In petrol guise there's a choice of 105, 125 and 150 horsepower, while diesels run from 115 to 140 and 163 horsepower.

Flexible

Predictably, the highest output diesel motor scores well if you plan on racking up the miles. Its flexible nature makes light work of long distances, and its six-speed manual gearbox can be swapped for a DSG-style auto if you wish.

Ford's petrol motors have improved beyond all recognition in recent years. As a willing, free-revving alternative to the more frugal diesel units, such engines prove ideal for shorter, stop-start journeys and boast less weight, which further enhances the car's agility.

As the old saying goes, power is nothing without control, and the Focus isn't short of systems to keep you and the car in check. Apart from the predictable abundance of airbags this Focus can be had with some

interesting Volvo-esque features, which shouldn't be a surprise considering the two were once very close.

Packaged as a bundle of features, you get a blind spot warning, lane departure alert, city speed auto braking function and a speed limit sign reader that displays the relevant information in the electronic fascia readout. It was only a few short years ago that such technology was the preserve of expensive luxury cars, and makes the inclusion in a 'regular' family hatch a big deal. You can thank Ford's economies of scale approach for the decision, and look forward to more of the same in the years to come with other new Fords.

Make no mistake; this Focus is a supremely competent and attractive car.

It might take a few minutes – and a few miles behind the wheel – to fully appreciate the progress made by Ford's engineers, but when you do you'll be pleasantly surprised by what's been achieved.

The combination of big-car refinement and equipment levels, a rounded and polished driving experience and an engine range offering real-world savings are just a few of the many highlights. Even in uncertain times, if its performance is anything to go by this Focus is destined to be another chart topper.



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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO₂ emissions in Europe.* Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Punto Evo Feelin Good 1.4 8v mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions: Urban 38.2 (7.4), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 49.6 (5.7), CO₂ emissions 132 g/km. Terms & Conditions apply. Whilst stocks last. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. With Fiat i-Deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 108, Leeds LS27 0WL. January to March 2011 offer. Fiat deposit contribution available on Fiat Punto Evo models and is only available in conjunction with Fiat i-Deal Low Cost. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. *Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume-weighted average CO₂ emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, 1st half 2010. Dealer Name, Street Name, Town, City Postcode. We work with a number of creditors to provide finance to our customers, including Fiat Financial Services.

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the 308 range: Urban 49.6–26.4 (5.7–10.7), Extra Urban 70.6–46.31 (4.1–6.1), Combined 68.9–36.6 (4.7–7.7) and CO₂ 179–124. For the 207 range: Urban 61.4–27.4 (4.6–10.3), Extra Urban 85.6–49.6 (3.3–5.7), Combined 74.3–38.2 (3.8–7.4) and CO₂ 171–99.

*A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Personal Lease contract examples. 308 Envy HDi 92 3dr initial rental £1595, optional final rental of £5205, 46 monthly rentals payable. 207 Envy HDi 70 3dr initial rental £795, optional final rental of £4206, 46 monthly rentals payable. If you choose to pay off the optional final rental at the end of contract, you can keep the car but will not own it – you will pay an annual rental equivalent to one of your monthly rentals. Excess mileage charges may apply. Offer available on vehicles ordered and registered by 31st March 2011. Model Exclusions apply.

FIRST GEAR



New Astra model trumps key rivals

VAUXHALL has announced a new Astra model, which the company claims squarely targets similarly-priced five-door hatch rivals from Ford and VW by offering levels of standard equipment and trim not usually seen outside the options list.

Starting at £18,110 for the 1.4-litre Turbo model, the ES Tech comes as standard with a sat-nav system (including CD player, MP3, USB, iPod control, seven speakers and aux-in socket), Bluetooth, a DAB radio, 17ins alloy wheels and air-con.

This complements the already generous level of standard equipment

found in most Astra models, such as curtain airbags, ESP, daytime running lights, cruise control and steering wheel-mounted audio controls.

This is, according to Vauxhall, bad news for the Astra's rivals. Compared with the £800 more expensive VW Golf 1.4 TSI Match, the Astra ES Tech 1.4 Turbo gains sat-nav, in addition to offering an extra 18 horsepower.

For diesel buyers, the Astra ES Tech is available with the 125 horsepower 1.7 CDTi engine, and with sub-120g/km emissions this version is one of Vauxhall's growing range of ecoFLEX models.

Nissan takes the wait off



DUE TO the unprecedented demand for its Juke, Qashqai and Qashqai+2 models, Nissan has taken an innovative step to ensure customers are happy – and mobile – while waiting for their new car to arrive.

The company will be offering a free loan car for buyers facing a delivery lead time of more than

three months to tide them over until their new Nissan arrives.

Customers ordering a new Juke will be offered use of a Micra, while Qashqai and Qashqai+2 buyers will be offered the use of a Note, completely free of charge. Even insurance cover is included, subject to normal terms and conditions.

Little Kia could save you a lot

JANUARY'S VAT rise may have added extra costs to buying a new car, but Kia can save the cost-conscious motorist more than 20 per cent.

Kia has extended its popular seven-year switch programme and upped the savings by £500 on selected models to £2,000.

For customers with a seven-year-old car, with a maximum of 100,000 miles, they can now swap their old banger for either a new Picanto 1.0 '1' from just £5,370, or a wider choice from the Rio range from just £6,540. To qualify the vehicle must have been first registered in the UK on or before June 30, 2004.

But for those with no car to trade-in, the Rio range is available from just £7,995 for the Rio 1.4 '1', or from £8,995 for the highly-equipped Rio 1.4 Domino which comes with 15ins alloys, front fog lights, premium upholstery, leather steering wheel, air-conditioning, six airbags and ESC.



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by
STEVELOADER

SAAB dealers are celebrating the first anniversary of the Swedish icon's rebirth by inviting motorists to an exclusive Independence event over this weekend, concluding on Monday.

It is one year since American car giant General Motors (GM) sold Saab Automobile to Dutch supercar marque Spyker, sparking a fanfare worthy of the great escapologist Houdini.

For GM had all but given up hope of finding a buyer for what it regarded as a loss-making basket case and had closed production at Saab's Trollhättan plant – the ailing patient's life support had been switched off.

But an 11th hour resuscitation was assembled and, one year on, all the vital signs of the old pre-GM Saab – a byword for automotive innovation – are showing once more and with a hint of mischief in choosing 'Independence Day' to underline its first birthday since escaping the clutches of the American GM colossus.

Glyn Williams, dealer principal at Canterbury Saab said: "Saab has come a long way in the last 12 months and here at Canterbury Saab it has been exciting to watch the company grow as we've launched a series of new products including the all-new Saab 9-5 Saloon and the new 9-3 low emissions engines.

"We've got many loyal Saab customers in Canterbury and we wanted to say 'thank you' by giving them the opportunity to take advantage of some truly exclusive deals over Independence weekend."

Visitors to Saab dealerships can benefit from new finance offers including a £2,500 trade-in allowance and zero per cent finance, whilst Saab customers will be offered a free visual

Saab Independence Day celebrates great escape



UPDATED: New SportWagon is expected to take more than half of the Saab 9-5 sales in the UK when it arrives later this year

health check for their vehicle.

Dealers are also offering 2010 approved used Saabs at keen prices and customers who buy any vehicle until the end of February are entered into a competition to try to win back the price they pay for their new Saab.

Since forming an independent company with Spyker, Saab has quickly pressed ahead with new products: the eagerly awaited Saab 9-5 SportWagon – expected to account for more than half of all 9-5 sales – arrives soon followed by the luxurious Saab 9-4X, Saab's first ever crossover vehicle.

The compact executive 9-3 range, which includes saloon, SportWagon and all-wheel drive 9-3X, and Convertible, has also been updated and the line-up streamlined for the 2011 model year. Most noticeable is the sleeker front end and 'ice block' headlight array.



SHARP: Independence strictly limited edition Convertible highlights the sleeker front end revisions to the Saab 9-3 compact executive range – note the new 'ice block' headlight array

Looking ahead, Saab has already formed partnerships with other leading innovators, including an agreement with BMW to supply petrol engines for next generation Saab models.

Saab was founded in 1937 as an aircraft manufacturer; its first car was unveiled 10 years later. The car division was then created as a separate entity in 1990, jointly owned by

the Saab Scania Group and General Motors, before becoming a wholly-owned GM subsidiary in 2000.

But the marriage never really worked, with Saab's famed individualism submerged and the brand's diehard fans eventually voted with their feet. Newly independent, the pressure is now on for Saab to win back former fans and recruit new ones.

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07 SEAT IBIZA 1.2 REFERENCE 3DR.....	26803	RED	£5495
57 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 FORMULA SPORT 3DR.....	39576	GREY	£5995
55 SEAT ALTEA 1.6 REFERENCE SPORT.....	30100	SILVER	£5995
08 SEAT IBIZA 1.2 FREERIDER 3DR.....	23125	RED	£6995
08 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SPORTRIDER 3DR.....	20744	RED	£7495
58 SEAT IBIZA 1.4TDi ECOMOTIVE 5DR.....	32871	SILVER	£8795
59 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SE 5DR.....	5757	WHITE	£8995
58 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SPORT 5DR.....	18082	GREY	£8995
07 SEAT LEON 1.9 Tdi STYLANCE 5DR.....	51380	SILVER	£8995
59 SEAT IBIZA 1.2 S 5DR.....	7452	RED	£8995
57 SEAT LEON 2.0 Tdi STYLANCE 5DR.....	64958	GREY	£8995
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Model shown Ibiza SC Chill 1.4 85PS £10,624RRP. *Reduction equivalent to 20% VAT applied to original base price excluding factory fitted options on new car deliveries taken from 4th January – 31st March 2011. On selected models only. VAT is still applicable and will be shown on the customer invoice. Price shown indicates RRP with the equivalent of no VAT, plus the Road Fund Licence and First Reg Fee. Retail sales only at participating Dealers. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at anytime. For full terms and conditions contact your local dealer or see seat.co.uk. †Low emissions based on CO₂ figures for the SEAT Ibiza starting at 92g/km. **Alloy wheels available on selected models only.

Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Ibiza SC in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 34 (8.3) - 67.3 (4.2); extra-urban 53.3 (5.3) - 91.1 (3.1); combined 44.1 (6.4) - 80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions 148 - 92 g/km.

Skoda ditches cake baking in favour of snake making

DrivingReview

by
STEVE LOADER

Skoda Fabia vRS

SKODA launched the current Fabia supermini with a compelling yet rather twee TV advert suggesting that carmaking is like making a cake.

This WI-inspired recipe was a tasty temptation for the Czech's brand's stereotypical customers: conservative, discerning and careful with money.

But the concoction wasn't ever going to work on people it hoped to persuade into the hot hatch Fabia vRS launched last year.

So the cake concept was turned on its head; instead of a bakery with workers in hygienic coats and hats, a new TV ad showed the vRS being shaped in a punkish Scrapheap Challenge-style metal shop with attitude and heavy music.

The magic ingredient? A snake for an engine. And is it all hype and froth? No.

The previous Fabia vRS was interesting and



SNAKE-POWERED: Skoda's latest ad campaign uses an engine made of snakes to highlight the potency of the new Fabia vRS engine

entertaining – unusually for this type of car, power came from a turbodiesel – but the new version is the real deal and still great value.

The latter especially so when considering all the technological abbreviations and acronyms squeezed into the vRS, notably the one and only but crowd-pleasing gearbox option: the VW group's fabulous twin-clutch DSG.

It offers a glimpse into a not too distant future when such clutch pedal-free installations may be standard; it is both a fully functioning seven-speed manual gearbox with swift and smooth

selection via stick or steering wheel paddles, or crisp yet smooth-shifting fully auto for when your snake-powered vRS is trapped in traffic.

With the lively 'twin-charger' supercharged and turbocharged 1.4-litre TSI engine turning out 180bhp, you also quickly take notice of another of the car's acronyms – XDS or electronic limited slip differential, designed to prevent the front driving wheels spinning themselves into a frenzy as they grapple with all that bhp.

Like most such gadgets, the XDS still can't

stop the vRS scrabbling on gravel or in slippery conditions, but it keeps the car sensible enough to enjoy and you quickly realise how this and the gearbox takes this latest vRS to a higher level.

The old car was quick and, unusually, used a turbodiesel to supply the fast take-off, but that 1.9-litre lump also made the Mark 1 vRS a bit ponderous. The snake-powered Mark 2, on the other hand, can dance along a winding road like a rattler, aided and abetted by that DSG 'box.

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Model shown is an Orlando 2.0 VCDi LTZ



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Vehicle shown is an Orlando 2.0 VCDi LTZ with metallic paint at an extra cost of £410, and an Executive Pack at an optional cost of £2,000. Available at participating Dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Orlando range: Urban - 29.1 (9.7) - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 47.9 (5.9) - 57.7 (4.9), Combined - 38.7 (7.3) - 47.1 (6.0). CO₂ emissions 186 - 159g/km.



The beauty of this pocket rocket though is its ability to do the sensible stuff when needed; the twin charger format delivers 0-62mph in just 7.3 seconds if needed, but real world motoring means the modest 1.4-litre engine can mostly amble around delivering an average mpg in the mid-40s.

And the car's ability to eat up roads when required does not come at the price of a taut suspension that nags even when you drive sedately; the vRS is perhaps one of the most comfortable hot hatches around and also comes with excellent sports-style seats.

Add all that to the five-seat van-like carrying capacity that comes as standard on the Mark 2 Fabia and this really is a hot hatch to please everyone.

And that includes the stingy, because vRS prices start at just £16,260.

Admittedly, the VW family has deployed the same formidable twin charger/DSG powertrain across a number of lively models and, most notably, in the £17,550 Seat Ibiza Cupra and the VW Polo GTI, which starts at £18,790 but will cost you £19,410 if you need to match the standard five-door practicality of Skoda's hooligan.

If you want an even bigger 'stow for go' factor you can also have the vRS estate version for £17,110, which still undercuts the three-door Cupra handsomely and makes the Polo looks downright extravagant.



DrivingPortfolio

SKODA FABIA VRS £16,260

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£125/year
Best rival	VW Polo

The Verdict



DON'T LIKE:

the styling. Even the hot hatch trappings cannot disguise the 'oh so practical' Fabia profile.



NOT SURE:

the vRS is the ultimate hot hatch but...



REALLY LIKE:

how it allows you to have your cake and eat it, with a mix of performance and practicality.

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2006(56) NISSANT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995	
2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,995	
2006(56) NISSANT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GOLD, 30000 miles.....	£7,995	
FIESTA		
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles.....	£12,995	
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£11,995	
2009(58) FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£8,995	
2007(57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles.....	£6,995	
FOCUS HATCH & SALOON		
2009(09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£10,995	
2008(58) FORD FOCUS STYLE SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles.....	£9,995	
2008(08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles.....	£8,995	
2008(57) FORD FOCUS STYLE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(57) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles.....	£6,995	
2005(55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles.....	£6,495	
2007(57) FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, TONIC BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£5,995	
FOCUS ESTATES		
2007(57) FORD FOCUS STYLE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£6,495	
RENAULT SCENIC		
2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£16,995	
2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 T5TR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£8,995	
2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 136 T5TR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£8,995	
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 55TR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 55TR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 55TR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 55TR MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles.....	£7,995	
2008(57) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 55TR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£6,995	
2004(54) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLACK, 27000 miles.....	£5,495	
RENAULT		
2007(57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 136 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles.....	£10,995	
2010(10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,995	
2010(60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles.....	£9,995	
2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT SDR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£9,995	
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995	
2008(08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 T5TR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles.....	£8,995	
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, GOLD, 30000 miles.....	£7,995	
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 300 miles.....	£7,995	
2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,995	
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles.....	£7,495	
2007(57) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles.....	£6,995	
2006(56) RENAULT LACUNA EXPRESSION SPORT TOURNER 16V ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles.....	£6,995	
2008(08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£6,995	
2005(05) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREEN, 39000 miles.....	£3,995	
CHEVROLET		
2008(08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£6,995	
2008(58) CHEVROLET AVEO LT SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles.....	£6,995	
2009(09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£6,995	
2009(58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£6,995	
2009(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1100 miles.....	£6,495	
2008(57) CHEVROLET KALOS SX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles.....	£5,495	
2006(56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£4,995	
2007(57) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£4,995	
2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles.....	£4,495	
2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£4,495	
2007(07) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 20000 miles.....	£4,495	
HYUNDAI		
2008(58) HYUNDAI MATRIX COMFORT MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles.....	£7,495	
2008(58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£6,995	
2009(59) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£5,995	
2007(57) HYUNDAI ACCENT ATLANTIC LIMITED EDITION 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£5,995	
2006(56) HYUNDAI GETZ CDX SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles.....	£5,995	
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles.....	£5,995	
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£5,995	
2007(07) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles.....	£5,495	
2004(54) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£3,995	
2006(06) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles.....	£3,995	
KIA		
2009(09) KIA CEED GS SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£8,995	

DAIHATSU		
2008(58) DAIHATSU SIRION SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles.....	£7,995	
2009(09) DAIHATSU SIRION SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£7,495	
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles.....	£6,995	
BMW		
2009(59) BMW 3 SERIES 320i SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles.....	£19,995	
FIAT		
2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles.....	£9,495	
2007(56) FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 25000 miles.....	£4,995	
FUSION		
2010(10) FORD FUSION ZETEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,995	
2008(08) FORD FUSION FUSION + SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles.....	£7,995	
2009(09) FORD FUSION FUSION + SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles.....	£7,495	
2006(56) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£5,995	
CITROEN		
2007(57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles.....	£5,995	
CORSA		
2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£10,995	
2010(10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV AC SDR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles.....	£9,995	
2009(59) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 750 miles.....	£9,495	
2009(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£8,995	
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles.....	£8,995	
2009(09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£8,995	
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£8,495	
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£8,495	
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles.....	£7,495	
2006(54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 4000 miles.....	£5,495	
2003(53) VAUXHALL CORSA ELEGANCE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 25000 miles.....	£3,995	
2001(51) VAUXHALL CORSA ELEGANCE 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 34000 miles.....	£2,995	
MAZDA		
2008(58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles.....	£9,995	
2008(08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£8,995	
2007(57) MAZDA 3 3 TS SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles.....	£7,995	
2006(56) MAZDA 6 6 S TS SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 21000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles.....	£6,495	
2007(56) MAZDA 2 2 S SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£5,995	
SUZUKI		
2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles.....	£9,495	
2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£9,995	
2007(57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,495	
TOYOTA		
2007(57) TOYOTA PRIUS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£12,995	
2007(57) TOYOTA AURIS T SPIRIT VVT-I MM SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995	
2007(07) TOYOTA AURIS T3 VVT-I MM SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles.....	£8,995	
2007(07) TOYOTA COROLLA T3 VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£8,995	
2008(08) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, VENETIAN SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£7,995	
2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 9000 miles.....	£7,995	
2005(54) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT VVT-I MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£7,495	
2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles.....	£7,495	
2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(07) TOYOTA YARIS T3 VVT-I MM SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 21000 miles.....	£6,995	
2004(54) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1750 miles.....	£6,995	
2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 5000 miles.....	£6,995	
2005(55) TOYOTA YARIS VERSO T3 VVT-I MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 9000 miles.....	£6,495	
2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I SDR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles.....	£5,495	
NISSAN		
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD SDR TD HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles.....	£19,995	
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles.....	£19,995	
2010(59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA SDR HATCH, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£19,495	
2009(58) NISSAN QASHQAI NTEC 4WD SDR HATCH AUTO 4x4, NIGHTSHADE, 2000 miles.....	£18,995	
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£17,995	
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles.....	£17,995	
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£14,495	
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles.....	£14,495	
2010(60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN SDR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 1000 miles.....	£12,995	
2007(07) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 24000 miles.....	£10,995	
2009(58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, RED, 11000 miles.....	£9,995	
2010(10) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles.....	£9,995	
2009(59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles.....	£9,995	
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 7000 miles.....	£8,495	
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£8,495	
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA PLUS SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles.....	£6,995	
2010(59) NISSAN PIXO N-TEC SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 11000 miles.....	£6,495	
2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA S SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£4,995	
2002(02) NISSAN MICRA S SDR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 10000 miles.....	£2,995	
ASTRA HATCHBACKS		
2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 950 miles.....	£15,995	
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£11,995	
2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£9,995	
2010(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles.....	£9,495	
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£9,495	
2009(09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles.....	£8,995	
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles.....	£8,995	
2009(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£8,495	
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 30000 miles.....	£8,495	
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles.....	£7,495	
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 19000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles.....	£6,995	
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BEIGE/BUFF, 14000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£5,995	
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£5,995	
2008(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£5,995	

ASTRA ESTATES		
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....		£7,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, SILVER, 14000 miles.....		£6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 15000 miles.....		£6,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....		£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles.....		£6,995
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 16000 miles.....		£6,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....		£5,995
ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA		
2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles.....		£12,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....		£10,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN DIRECT MPV AUTO, BLUE, 850 miles.....		£10,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles.....		£8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....		£8,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, TURQUOISE, 13000 miles.....		£7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles.....		£7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles.....		£7,995
2007(07) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....		£6,995
2008(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE SDR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles.....		£5,995
2004(54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 78000 miles.....		£3,995
PEUGEOT		
2010(60) PEUGEOT 308 S SDR HATCH AUTO, ABYSS BLUE, 750 miles.....		£10,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....		£9,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles.....		£9,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles.....		£9,495
2008(08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....		£8,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....		£7,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles.....		£6,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 S SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles.....		£6,995
MITSUBISHI		
2007(57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles.....		£6,995
HONDA		
2007(07) HONDA CRV I-VTEC ES SDR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles.....		£17,995
2007(07) HONDA CRV I-VTEC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 15000 miles.....		£15,995
2006(06) HONDA CRV I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles.....		£11,995
2009(09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3600 miles.....		£10,995
2008(58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....		£10,495
2007(07) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE SDR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles.....		£8,995
2004(54) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles.....		£6,495
2005(54) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 33000 miles.....		£5,995
2003(03) HONDA CIVIC SE EXECUTIVE SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 49000 miles.....		£4,995
MERCEDES		
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 COMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles.....	£23,995	
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles.....	£13,995	
2008(58) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£13,995	
2010(60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CLASSIC SE SDR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles.....	£13,995	
2005(55) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE LWB SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles.....	£10,995	
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£9,995	
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE SDR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles.....	£9,995	
2007(56) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£8,995	
2002(02) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK SLK230 COMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles.....	£7,995	
VOLKSWAGEN		
2008(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles.....	£11,995	
2008(58) VOLKSWAGEN JETTA S TDI TD TONIC AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 19000 miles.....	£9,995	
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles.....	£9,995	
2006(06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£6,995	
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£9,995	
2008(58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£8,995	
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S SDR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(57) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles.....	£7,495	
2003(53) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE SDR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 54000 miles.....	£4,995	
DIESEL AUTOMATICS		
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR TC HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles.....	£19,995	
2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIC DDI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£16,995	
2010(60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£16,995	
2009(09) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles.....	£12,995	
MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS		
2006(06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S D TD SALOON, RED, 72000 miles.....	£7,995	
2007(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA ENERGY CDTI TD MPV, BLACK, 24000 miles.....	£6,995	
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£5,995	
2008(08) RENAULT TWINGO DYNAMIC MPV, BLACK, ORANGE, 35000 miles.....	£5,495	
2006(56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles.....	£5,495	
2004(04) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 25000 miles.....	£5,495	
2006(06) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V SDR HATCH, MAUVE, 35000 miles.....	£5,495	
2007(07) FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC SDR HATCH, GREY, 8000 miles.....	£4,995	
2007(07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles.....	£4,995	
2003(03) PEUGEOT 206 CC SILVER COUPE, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles.....	£4,695	
2005(05) NISSAN MICRA S SDR HATCH, BLACK, 21000 miles.....	£3,995	
2005(55) CITROEN C2 DESIGN 3DR HATCH, BLACK, 24000 miles.....	£3,995	
2005(05) VAUXHALL AGILA ENJOY 16V TWINPORT MPV, GOLD, 20000 miles.....	£3,995	
2004(04) PEUGEOT 206 SE SDR HATCH, MOONSTONE SILVER, 36000 miles.....	£3,995	
2003(53) FORD FOCUS GHIA 5DR HATCH, TONIC BLUE, 44000 miles.....	£3,995	
SKODA		
2008(58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£8,995	

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Court ruling to have impact on insurance

Q I have just passed my driving test but have not yet got my own car. My mother has added me to her insurance, so I can drive her car, but she was advised to sort out my own insurance as quickly as possible because new laws will increase women's premiums. Is this true?

KL

A Yes, this is true – probably! Everything depends on a European Court decision that is expected next week, on Friday. A consumer group in Belgium wants the court to rule that it is illegal to charge men and women different insurance premiums, and it looks as though the judge will agree. If he does, the results will be enormous and the ripples will spread far wider than just motoring policies. Young women drivers have far fewer accidents than young men, so pay less for their insurance. The AA says women's premiums can be as much as 50pc cheaper, and could increase substantially immediately the judgment is enforced. There is no way of knowing whether the court's decision will apply at once or at a date to be set in the future, but you could be looking at paying an extra £1,000 a year.

At the other end of the age scale, people approaching retirement may be badly hit. Men die younger than women, so a man with a private pension plan gets more than a woman of the same age, because her pension will typically last four or five years longer. If this is outlawed, a man retiring next month could see his pension crash by about 10pc. I suppose there is always a chance that Parliament will stand up to the European Court. MPs recently voted down European plans to give prisoners the vote, so perhaps they will also come to the rescue of young women drivers and men approaching retirement.

Q Tesco Bank is offering 5.2pc interest. Is this the same as the supermarket company, or is it a different firm? Is the account safe?

PD

A Tesco Bank really is part of the huge supermarket group. But its highest interest rate on any savings account is 3.75pc. What you have heard about is a "corporate bond", or IOU. You lend Tesco Bank £2,000 upwards, and the bank will pay annual interest of 5.2pc until 2018, when your bond will be repaid in full. Meanwhile, those bonds are traded on the stock market, with the price rising or falling each day. It is very unlikely that anything will go wrong with a company so big, but if disaster did strike, your bond would not be protected by the official compensation scheme that rescues savers, because it is a stock market investment and not a bank account. Only you can decide whether you can lock your money away, possibly for as long as seven years.

TONY HETHERINGTON MONEY CLINIC



Q Our bank statement showed a direct debit payment to the power company Eon, but we do not use Eon. I told the bank, and the money was returned to our account immediately, but how did Eon get our details in the first place?

LH

A Direct debit rules say your bank must replace the money as soon as you say that a payment was not authorised, so top marks to your bank for doing just that. My guess is that Eon's bank meant to take a payment from someone else's account and someone typed in your account details by mistake. Just one incorrect figure could have meant that you paid someone else's gas or electric bill. This is one more reason why we all need to check our bank statements.

Q I have been told to expect a £100 fine because I missed the January 31 deadline for filing my tax return online. Is there any appeal against this?

CR

A You have told me that when you went to the Revenue website to file your tax return, you were asked to register. You were then advised you would be sent confirmation details, allowing you to file online, but those details arrived after the deadline because they were sent by post for security reasons. There is an appeal procedure, but according to the tax man it is meant for people who were ill, or whose vital documents had been lost in a flood or fire. As you had nine months to file your return, it is unlikely an appeal would succeed.

Q My grandfather had shares in Abbey National, that became shares in Santander when it took over. He died recently, and my two brothers and I are supposed to divide the small holding of shares, so none of us will end up with much. Could we sign them over to charity instead?

NR

A If you have a favourite charity, you could certainly hand over the shares. Or you could contact Sharegift (020 7930 3737), which is a charity that turns unwanted shares into cash for good causes, and deals with the necessary paperwork.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Tax cheats face increased scrutiny

Letters are about to land on the doormats of 900 tax cheats warning them that they under an increased level of scrutiny from the authorities.

Under a programme called Managing Deliberate Defaulters (MDD), known evaders – both individuals and businesses – will be closely monitored by HM Revenue & Customs.

The scrutiny is designed to prevent tax cheats from going back to their old ways once they have been punished for their past misdemeanours.

"Tax cheat check-ups will involve continued and close scrutiny – it is a real deterrent," said Steve

Hickman, of HM Revenue & Customs.

"If you are thinking about breaking the rules, remember that you could end up with HMRC on your back for five years."

The level and term of monitoring will depend on the seriousness of the previous offence, but it is thought that anyone who is in the programme will be monitored for at least two years.

HMRC said that as well as checking that returns are filed on time and all tax that is due is paid correctly, there will be regular reviews of people's tax affairs to check that any errors

or failings have been put right. "We have worked closely with the accountant community to develop this programme and their help has been invaluable in getting the detail right," said Mr Hickman. Tax evaders who fail to keep their affairs in order are being warned they will face increasingly intrusive interventions from the authorities, and they could be subject to further criminal proceedings. Safeguards are also being put in place to ensure that deliberate defaulters do not escape scrutiny by starting new businesses under different names or identities.



EXPENSIVE BUSINESS: This young child could cost his parents more than £200,000 by the time he is 21.

Children still proving pricey

The cost of raising a child has risen by 50pc over the past eight years, and has now smashed through the £200,000 barrier.

Even over the past year, with the official rate of inflation going way over the Bank of England's 2pc target, the cost of bringing up children has risen quicker than costs elsewhere, with a 4.5pc increase over the past 12 months.

"Parents are all too aware that having a child comes with a hefty bill when you factor in things like childcare, schooling and holidays over a 21-year stretch," said Mark Jones, head of protection at LV=, which carried out a study into the cost of having children.

"Childcare and education must feel like another mortgage payment for some parents as this is still the biggest outlay and shows no signs of slowing down, particularly when many universities are set to increase

By ADAM AIKEN
MyMoney24 editor

tuition fees up to £9,000 a year from 2012."

The cost of raising children has been presented by LV= on an average basis, and there are likely to be huge variations between parents of different means and in different situations.

But the figures – once they have been aggregated over a 21-year period – still bring home the impact of how much it can cost to bring up a child.

According to the research, parents typically spend £67,000 on childcare and babysitting; £55,000 on education; £18,000 on food; £15,000 on clothing; £14,000 on holidays; and £10,000 on hobbies and toys.

Even pocket money apparently costs an average of more than £4,500 for each child.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, children are most expensive between the ages

of 18 and 21, when they typically cost parents £14,365 a year. And with tuition fees set to see a huge increase, education is expected to form the biggest single area of expenditure for parents from next year.

More than three quarters of those who took part in the Cost of a Child Report said the economic climate had hit them hard, with 78pc having made cutbacks or economised over the past year because of financial pressures.

Holidays and short breaks have fallen victim, and there has also been a reduction in the purchase of new clothes by nearly half the parents who were surveyed.

Meanwhile, a majority of parents said they would be affected by the changes to child benefit.

Nearly a third of parents said they expected to have to cut back their spending as a direct result of losing the benefit, which can be worth up to £66 a month for a family's eldest child.

News

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On the blogs

Peter Sharkey:

Consider cheaper alternatives
this Isa season

Take some action to avoid driving up motoring costs

Motoring is getting even more expensive, leading drivers to take evasive action. **ADAM AIKEN** reports.

A growing number of motorists are expected to change their driving habits thanks to the seemingly ever-increasing cost of running a car.

Insurance premiums and fuel have both soared in recent months, with two thirds of all drivers saying that the huge costs have taken their toll.

The price of insuring a vehicle rose by more than 30pc last year, or by an average of 44p a day, according to research by Moneysupermarket.com, and the cost of filling a tank with petrol or diesel has been the subject of much comment in recent months.

Environmentalists will see some good coming out of all this, with the Moneysupermarket research suggesting that 8pc of motorists are looking to ditch their cars and make use of public transport instead.

But for those people who intend to keep using their vehicles, a few tips on bringing down the cost of motoring are in order.

"With escalating fuel prices hitting motorists hard in the pocket, I'm not surprised most are looking for ways to drive down the cost of getting behind the wheel – especially when the cost of insurance cover is on the rise, too," said Peter Harrison, of Moneysupermarket.

INSURANCE

Mr Harrison said: "Our analysis shows car insurance prices increased by 31pc in 2010. With prices on the up, it is more important than ever that drivers ensure they are shopping around for the best deals on insurance. Those who do will reap rewards and make their hard-earned cash go further."

"When newly insuring a car, providers may lure drivers in with competitive deals or special discounts in the first year which are not ordinarily available to existing policyholders. Rest assured that if you don't shop around in the second year, certain insurers will not hesitate to increase your renewal price – hardly the thanks deserved for being a loyal customer."

Moneysupermarket reckons that more than six million drivers a year automatically renew their policies. But by sticking with their existing insurers, motorists are wasting an average of £270 each by paying over the odds.

"Insurers count on customer apathy to reap the profits, so it is alarming that so many motorists are prepared to waste their hard-earned cash by not looking for better deals."

"Even if you think your quote can't



HIGHWAY HELL: Motorists are facing both rising costs and increasing levels of traffic on British roads.

be beaten, it takes only a few minutes to make sure you really do have the best value policy to suit your needs."

However, Ian Crowder, of AA Insurance, said it was important for people using price-comparison websites to compare like with like.

"You need to make sure you know what you're buying," he said.

"Quite often when you see a lower quote on a price-comparison site, it's because there is a higher excess or because things such as legal assistance on foreign cover is not included."

"Those things become bolt-on goodies instead, and once you have added them to the cost of your new quote, you can find you are back where you are started."

Something else that motorists – especially young drivers – can do to help get their premiums lower is avoid convictions.

"It might sound obvious, but keep your nose clean and your premiums

are likely to come down," said Mr Crowder.

"It might be uncool to drive within the speed limit, but if you avoid any claims or speeding convictions you might find your premium falls by as much as a third the first time you come to renew your insurance."

Meanwhile, if you change jobs or substantially cut your annual mileage, let your insurer know. The way you use your car can have a significant impact on what you pay.

FUEL EFFICIENCY

As well as the 8pc of drivers in the Moneysupermarket study who said they would be looking to switch to public transport because of rising motoring costs, nearly half of those asked said they would look to get more fuel-efficient cars when they replaced their current vehicles.

As well as being more economical with fuel, other benefits include a cut in road tax and savings on the

congestion charge when driving in central London. The AA's Mr Crowder also said he had recently come across a district council that allowed free parking for environmentally-friendly cars.

For the majority of drivers, though, it's going to be a case of taking measures to keep their existing fuel costs down.

Mr Crowder that taking a few simple steps, such as not carrying unnecessary loads around and removing unused roof-racks, would help cut the use of fuel.

He added: "Make sure your tyres are inflated correctly. If they are too soft, they will suck up fuel."

"The same thing will happen if your tracking is out. If you ever go over a large pothole or bump on to a kerb, have your tracking checked as soon as you can."

Each of these tips might save only a few pence, but the extra costs can soon add up if you don't take care.

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at **Moneyfacts.co.uk**, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Barclays

Barclays has launched its latest five-year-fixed rate bond. The minimum investment is £500, which pays an annual rate of 4.25pc, or 4.17pc for monthly interest. Savers with deposits of £50,000 or above will receive a rate of 4.75pc, or 4.65pc for monthly interest. Further additions are not allowed and, as with many fixed-rate deals, no earlier access is permitted. Investors must be aged 18 and over and can operate this account in branch only.

Why is it good? This is amongst the market-leading long-term bonds, as long as investors have £50,000 or more to invest. Savers must ensure they are committed to locking funds away for the duration of the term.

Savings: Nationwide
The popular Mysave Online Plus account has been relaunched, paying a monthly rate of 2.91pc, including a 1.41pc bonus for 12 months. Investments range between £1,000 and £3m. Investors can make one penalty-free withdrawal a year. If more than one is made within a 12-month period, the rate will reduce to 0.1pc for the month in which it was made. All withdrawals must be made via a nominated account. Savers must be 16 and over for this online-only account.

Why is it good? This latest deal from Nationwide heads straight to the top of the no-notice internet market with its competitive rate, including a bonus for 12 months. Whilst this is very appealing, savers must remember that only one-penalty free withdrawal is allowed a year, otherwise there is a penalty.

Mortgages: Co-operative Bank
The Co-op has reviewed its fixed-rate mortgage range. The five-year rate of 6.09pc has been reduced to 5.89pc until May 31, 2016. The maximum loan-to-value is 90pc and a fee of £999 is payable. The deal also offers a host of flexible features such as the options to make overpayments and underpayments and to take payment holidays.

Why is it good? A rate reduction of 0.2pc means this five-year deal features as one of the lower rates in the market. The high LTV will please borrowers with limited deposits, while a fee of £999 plus many features help to heighten its appeal.

Mortgages: Yorkshire Building Society
The Yorkshire has increased selected rates across its fixed range. But despite a rate increase of 0.4pc, the two-year deal at 3.79pc still offers borrowers a good overall product with a maximum LTV of 75pc and a fee of £495. A plethora of incentives are also offered. First and second-time buyers can enjoy £250 rebates, remortgagers will receive free legal fees and all borrowers enjoy free valuations. Overpayments of up to 10pc of the outstanding balance can be made.

Why is it good? The two-year product of 3.79pc remains competitive and stands out, mainly due to the low fee of £495 and the incentives.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

BUSINESSES are being urged to back The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme, with the incentive of a potential £360,000 boost to the Kent economy. Trust officials say further support will provide more unemployed 18- to 30-year-olds with the skills and know-how required to set up their own companies. It is estimated this could bring £360,000 to Kent in the next three years. See our report inside.

**SIMON ROBINSON**

BUSINESS EDITOR

TELEPHONE: 01303 817185

EMAIL: simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

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Slick tourism campaign launches second phase



MAJESTIC: Dover Castle as featured in the Kent Contemporary campaign's next phase

By **SIMON ROBINSON**simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

VISIT Kent has launched the second phase of its eye-catching tourism marketing campaign.

The first set of Kent Contemporary advertising photographs was posted on billboards, trains and railway and Underground stations between May and October, last year.

They proved a hit – persuading thousands of visitors to venture into the county and helping to deliver an £18 million boost to the Kent economy, a 47:1 return on investment for the five-month campaign.

The second wave of photos includes shots of Dover Castle, Folkestone's Creative Quarter, Chatham Historic Dockyard and kite-surfers at Greatstone.

A Visit Kent official said: "Independent research into the first phase of the £400,000 campaign, which included photographs of Hever Castle, Botany Bay and the Goods Shed at Canterbury, revealed a 47:1 return on investment between May and October, last year.

"They generated 79,000 additional overnight



ARTISTIC: Creative Quarter in Folkestone

trips and short breaks to the county, 221,260 additional visitor nights worth almost £11m, and 196,375 day trips from outside Kent, with visitors spending £7,853,000.

"Furthermore, but not included in the economic impact figures, the campaign encouraged Kent and Medway residents to take more overnight trips and day trips within the county with a total value of just under £11m."

Businesses across the county are being urged to support the Kent Contemporary brand.

Speaking at the launch of the Visit Kent brand toolkit at the Turner Contemporary last week, M&C Saatchi ad expert Alice McEvoy explained the thinking behind the campaign.

She said: "We know from research that when people consider taking a short break or holiday, Kent is often overlooked in favour of other areas. "So in order to increase the number of visitors, we know we need to change and improve the perception of the county as a desirable place to visit. We decided to use the strength and power of 'Kent, the Garden of England' but with 'use your garden' as a way to present the county in a more modern, relevant and contemporary way.

"The campaign, with its stunning images, provides a creative inspiration for all of us who market Kent to visitors. But we can't do everything. We need the help and involvement of businesses across the county.

"If we all tell the same story, it will add up to a much more powerful image for Kent. And that means more awareness, more impact and more visitors."

• *The Kent Contemporary images were taken by photographer Jean Luc Bernard.*

Minister's Pfizer site assurance to MP

SCIENCE minister David Willetts has said Pfizer's Sandwich site will have an "active" and "great" future. Mr Willetts gave the assurance in Parliament after Thanet South MP Laura Sandys asked what his vision was for the research-and-development base and its employees.

He admitted the closure posed a "very serious challenge" but said the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was doing its best to tackle the problem.

Mr Willetts suggested the site could be developed and used by multiple small research businesses, enabling it to benefit from the new trend emerging in the pharmaceutical sector, where outsourcing to smaller R&D companies is taking place. Ms Sandys said the minister was pushing

to ensure east Kent remained a world-renowned centre for research.

She said: "The economic task force – formed to secure investment and attract businesses to the site – has met for the second time.

"Within the next 30 days, we have committed to produce a comprehensive report on all the possible options for the site.

"All the important steps have been taken and with the support of east Kent MPs I am committed to ensuring the jobs stay in the area and that we maximise the huge potential of what is a state-of-the-art site."

Pfizer workers raised a number of concerns during an employment law question-and-answer session. Barrister Paul Tapsell, from Becket

Chambers in Canterbury, spoke to employees about redundancy, the consultation process, compensation packages and legal advice.

A spokesman at Fosters Law, which has offices in Broadstairs, Canterbury and Herne Bay, said staff who attended the meeting in Ramsgate raised a number of concerns, including relocation, issues with transfers and the differences between statutory and contractual compensation packages.

Some 2,400 jobs are at risk after the pharmaceutical giant announced it was pulling out of Sandwich, but the figure is expected to be much higher when taking into account contracts such as cleaning and catering. This could push the figure as high as 5,400.

Comment

THE Turner Contemporary story will enter a new chapter when it finally opens in two months' time. From that moment, all talk of the gallery's drawn-out transition from conception to concrete – a process that has taken more than a decade – will become redundant.

As soon as the first visitor steps through the door, the only relevant question, from a strictly business position, will be whether it works as a sustainable tourist attraction.

Turner Contemporary chiefs have talked up the gallery's appeal, claiming it will draw 156,000 visitors a year to east Kent.

Assuming this figure is correct, that works out as 3,000 Turner tourists every week.

While I don't doubt the gallery's pulling power, I question whether Margate as a whole is ready to accommodate its new guests to such an extent that they'll want to make a repeat visit.

Tellingly, the Turner team have identified this concern as a major factor in the overall success of the cultural project.

Chairman of trustees John Kampfner spoke last week of his vision of east Kent becoming one of Europe's top cultural destinations.

But at the same time he warned that this dream was threatened by bad service from Turner Contemporary's supporting tourist industries – bars, cafés, taxis, hotels, restaurants and so on.

Kampfner pointed to the example of Bilbao, which has been rejuvenated since the Guggenheim Museum opened in 1997.

Maybe I'm being cynical, but I fear it will take more than a new gallery and 'service with a smile' to transform visitors' impressions of Margate's tourist offerings from ageing arcades and a run-down beachfront to capital of culture.

Let's hope I'm wrong and that the visitors flock to Turner and the seaside in their thousands for many years to come.

Time will tell, starting when the gallery opens its doors for the first time on Saturday, April 16.

BUSINESS EDITOR, SIMON ROBINSON
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GAME ON: From left, Richard Marshall of NatWest, ICON MD John Francis, SLS Group MD Giles Stanford, Dave Weller of ICON and Richard Gower of NatWest

Winning combination

BRANDING business ICON has completed its acquisition of events firm SLS Group.

The Kent-based company, which operates in the sports, commercial and cultural markets, bought the company in a £1 million deal.

Managing director John Francis said: "ICON have worked with SLS on high-profile events, including last year's Ryder Cup, and have been aware for some time of the quality of their work and people.

"We are delighted to have been able to agree this acquisition and are confident SLS will enhance our offering to both new and existing clients."

The acquisition went ahead with £500,000 support from NatWest.

The bank's business development director Richard Marshall said: "Having supported ICON with their management buyout in October, 2008, we know the team well so didn't hesitate to support the acquisition of SLS Group. With the support of my colleague Richard Gower in

Maidstone, we have seen continued growth on the back of successful strategies and wish them well."

Operating from its HQ in Sidcup, ICON employs 80 full-time staff based in the UK and overseas, working with clients from concept through to production and on-site implementation.

It has an impressive client list, including international and domestic cricket, FIFA, Wimbledon and the Ryder Cup, all served from their UK, Germany, Qatar, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and South Africa offices.



INTERACTIVE: Gordon Henderson with web assistant Jess McMahon

Online access and advice

TORY Gordon Henderson has become the first MP to launch a dedicated business website.

The Swale representative set up the Sittingbourne and Sheppey Business Link (www.blinkss.co.uk) last week.

Mr Henderson said he hoped the site would give business people access to the latest industry news and provide an immediate means of contacting him.

He said: "One of my top priorities will be to help local companies get through the economic challenge our country faces. As and when the economic climate improves, I want those businesses to be better placed to expand and provide the jobs people need. One of the ways in which I can achieve that goal is by ensuring local business people have easy access to advice and are able to get quick answers to questions they have about Government policy."

"As a first step I have set up the Sittingbourne and Sheppey Business Link website to provide the local business community with a direct line to me."

A quick pitch at the science park



BUSINESS was in the air at the county's inaugural speed-networking event.

Following the format of speed-dating nights, each attendee was given a two-minute slot to pitch their company to potential clients before moving on the next seat. It is hoped the event at Kent Science Park, near Sittingbourne, will lead to lasting connections.

James Lanby, of Larkings Chartered Accountants, said: "The format was perfect for making contacts I might not have had a chance to speak to otherwise. The event was very well organised and Kent Science Park is a great venue."

Speed-networking events will be a regular feature of Kent Science Park's calendar, on the third Wednesday of every month.

Email jen.francis@ksp-uk.com for details.

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BUSINESS WEEK

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LOCATE in Kent has reached a new business landmark. The company has now helped 700 firms relocate or expand in the county since 1997, assisting in the creation of 26,000 jobs in the process.

One of the most recent out-of-county companies to turn to Locate in Kent for assistance was Jefferson Hunt.

The employment screening firm has moved from Essex to Watlington, near Maidstone, and plans to increase its workforce to about 20 within the next 12 months. The firm's Angus Buchanan praised Locate in Kent for its help with the company's move.

"During my three-year search for property in the county, Locate in Kent provided invaluable support and assistance and lists of properties to view," he said. "The agency is an excellent source of information and I was able to call on them when I needed to procure local services and was given excellent contacts, including IT and telecoms."

THE latest farming and fruit-growing products will be on display next week at the inaugural Agri-Expo South East show. The Detling Showground one-day event will feature more than 110 stands.

A spokesman said: "The day will concentrate on showing the farming community the latest products and innovations in the industry with a particular emphasis on fruit-growing. "It will be an opportunity for farmers and growers to evaluate the benefits of new equipment, talk to manufacturers' representatives and see rival products side by side."

The Agri-Expo takes place on Tuesday.

FOUR sixth-formers have reached the regional finals of a national investment competition after making a killing on the stock market.

The Rainham School For Girls team, made up of Elwira Mroczko, Saira Sheikh, Henna Khan and Jaspreet Sandhu, returned a £21,000 profit on their original £100,000 virtual cash fund during a three-month period buying and selling shares on the FTSE 100.

Their succession of shrewd investments saw them placed 12th out of the 7,460 entrants across the country. They now move on to the South East finals. The overall winner will receive an all-expenses trip to New York, £2,000 for their school and £200 for each team member.

A NEW £14 million recycling plant will open in Swanley next month. The Ideal Waste Paper Co facility will create more than 60 jobs. The official opening is on Friday, March 4.

A spokesman for the family firm said: "This recycling plant is part of the company's expansion strategy to deliver high-quality, recyclable waste streams to avoid landfill. It will also have environmental benefits with a reduction in carbon miles."

A FREE event next month will offer businesses guidance on how to access grants from a 50 billion euro European Union pot.

The one-day workshop will explain how to use Framework 7 (FP7) to apply for cash to co-finance research, technological development and demonstration projects.

The event will be at Kent Science Park, near Sittingbourne, on Tuesday, March 8. Site director James Speck said: "Getting funding is nearly always the crucial barrier to hi-tech research, and we all hope this workshop will encourage individuals with the expertise and big ideas to apply for money from the European pot."

"Kent has a great pedigree in R&D and we are keen to see that continue."

To register, call Jen Francis on 01795 506321 or email jen.francis@ksp-uk.com.

Turner the tide



STUNNING: Margate's Turner Contemporary gallery opens in April, providing opportunities and challenges for east Kent tourism

TURNER Contemporary bosses have called on east Kent businesses to help turn the area into one of Europe's top cultural destinations, writes *Simon Robinson*.

The plea was made at Visit Kent's investors' meeting, at the Margate gallery on Thursday, February 17.

Speaking ahead of the venue's April launch, chairman of trustees John Kampfner said it was up to local businesses to ensure Turner Contemporary's expected 156,000 annual visitors came back to the area.

"This is a truly international venture we are about to unleash on the world," he said.

"Whatever you think will be the ramifications for tourism in east Kent, double it and add some more."

"Turner Contemporary will bring people from all over the world to the area. The decision these tourists then take whether or not to come back will be based on what the community can offer."

"We have the potential to build something

wonderful, but for every cold cup of coffee served and surly bed-and-breakfast worker people encounter one tourist will not come back."

"It's up to us to turn east Kent into one of Europe's top cultural destinations."

Turner Contemporary director Victoria Pomery said: "The arts have a key role in the Kent economy during 2011."

"Not only do we open, but there is the second Folkestone Triennial, the Marlowe Theatre reopens and the Canterbury Festival is working with arts organisations for their outdoor Blink event."

"There are also lots of other organisations doing great things in Kent. We are looking to draw 156,000 visitors to Turner Contemporary each year – that's our target and we're confident we can achieve it."

"Turner is going to benefit everyone – regionally, nationally and internationally."

Situated on Margate seafront, at the same site JMW Turner stayed when visiting the town, the Turner Contemporary will be the South East's largest exhibition space outside London when it opens on Saturday, April 16.



LIGHT FANTASTIC: View from inside the Turner Contemporary

FSB jobs plea to Coalition

THE Federation of Small Businesses has called on the Treasury to help counter the county's above-average rise in unemployment.

The call comes after figures revealed there had been a 6 per cent increase in the number of Kent workers joining the dole queue – three times higher than the national average.

This surge in unemployment does not take into effect Pfizer's decision to close its Sandwich site, leaving 2,400 jobs at risk, and far-reaching public sector cuts.

FSB Kent and Medway chairman Roger House said: "We are calling on Kent MPs, in particular

those in the deprived areas of the county, to persuade the Treasury to grant the National Insurance contribution benefit available in the west and the north of the UK to be applied in Kent to incentivise small businesses to take on new staff and boost employment opportunities."

"If the Government is serious about the private sector and small businesses pulling the country out of recession, it cannot continue to regulate and suck finance out of businesses."

"They must create a commercial environment where business is valued and is confident to expand and create new jobs."

Castle's planned winter-hours cut alarms port

TOURISM chiefs have warned of the harmful impact that temporarily closing Dover Castle could have on the port's hospitality industry.

The business support manager at Channel Chamber of Commerce, Roger Walkden, said plans by English Heritage to close during winter weekdays could leave many accommodation and retail businesses struggling through the colder months.

Although the former B&B owner admitted many tourists travelled straight to the castle without coming to the town, he said businesses would still feel the strain.

"In the summer they do reasonably well, but there are still bills to pay in the winter," he said.

"The impact will be felt in accommodation, hospitality and retail businesses. I don't think it will necessarily lead to them closing down, although some may come close to it. Some will really struggle."

Detrimental

Margaret Reidy, of Number One Guest House in Castle Street, said: "Most people feel it's going to have a detrimental effect."

English Heritage is consulting staff on plans to restrict winter opening at Dover Castle to weekends after a 32 per cent cut in Government grants. It could mean the loss of 40 jobs at the castle.

English Heritage says that just 13 per cent of the castle's annual visitors were outside the summer season, but with 355,000 visiting between 2009 and 2010, this figure is still a high 46,000.

A spokesman said English Heritage regularly reviewed its opening hours.

"Having looked at visitor patterns, and bearing in mind the 32 per cent cut to our grant in future years, English Heritage is proposing to adjust winter opening times with effect from November."

"Over the next three months, English Heritage will be consulting with staff about these proposed changes."

A decision will be made at the end of the three-month consultation period.

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Eastern brewing promise fulfilled to Sheps' delight

SHEPHERD Neame picked up a gold and two silver awards at the brewing 'Oscars'.

The Faversham firm won gold and silver in the keg-lager category, for Japanese lager Asahi and Chinese Sun Lik.

Both are brewed under licence in Kent.

Sheps' Whitstable Bay Organic Ale claimed the silver award in the small-pack ale category.

Production and distribution director Tom Falcon said: "We're delighted to have been rewarded with three medals in such a prestigious and long-running awards scheme."

"We brew Asahi and Sun Lik to meet the exacting standards of our international partners, and it's fantastic to see our brewers recognised for this. We are pleased to see one of our own Kentish ales selected as a winner, too."

The Brewing Industry International Awards are now in their 125th year. This year there were almost 800 entries across nine categories, divided into 32 classes according to alcohol content.

The awards were judged at the National Brewery Centre in Burton-upon-Trent.

A presentation ceremony will take place at Guildhall, London, on April 12.

Sheps has also been short-listed for a prize at the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence.

The Kent company has been named as a finalist in the small visitor attraction of the year category and is up against three other tourist destinations for the accolade.

Shepherd Neame visitor centre manager Graham Hukins said: "We are delighted to have been announced as finalists for this national award. This is a real boost for the team, who have worked exceptionally hard to provide a first-class experience for our visitors."

Attractions are reviewed by independent assessors and judged by industry experts. The overall winners of each category will be announced at a ceremony in Birmingham on Friday, April 15.

Driven man has

KOSmedia BUSINESS WEEK

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Autotrader co-founder Paul Gibbons's above-par sales and marketing efforts have allowed him the time to focus on achieving below-par golf scores.

The former sausage salesman honed his selling craft at the Reading Evening Post before launching the Thames Valley Trader – the template for the national Autotrader publication – with colleague John Madejski, current chairman of Reading FC.

After the pair sold their publishing firm in 1998, he moved into the world of golf and set about building his four-course portfolio. He told Business Editor SIMON ROBINSON how both a careers adviser and newspaper proprietor Eddy Shah had a hand in securing his success



PAUL GIBBONS

GOLF-COURSE-owner Paul Gibbons has the misguided fears of his school careers adviser to thank in part for his hugely successful business career.

After dismissing Gibbons's preferred professions – a chef or a tailor – as skills soon to be lost to industrial machines, he pointed the 15-year-old to Reading high street and told him to get a job in retail.

The young Gibbons took heed of the careers officer's somewhat skewed advice and in doing so found his true calling in sales and marketing.

For while the chef and tailoring trades may have lost a good worker, it's unlikely these professions would have led Gibbons to the lofty position he finds himself in today as the joint owner of Leaderboard, a holding company he and his wife run and that boasts four top golf courses, two four-star hotels and a state-of-the-art driving range.

It is in the plush clubhouse of Gibbons's sole Kent club, the 200-acre Chart Hills course, near Biddenden, that I ask the 63-year-old how he came to take his first step into the world of business.

"The careers officer told me not to become a chef as everything would soon be pre-packed

food. As for tailoring, he said the skill would soon be gone, that it would all be done with machinery and that I didn't want to work in a factory. He told me to go and get a job in the high street. So I went to Burtons. I enjoyed what I was doing and quickly realised that selling and marketing was what I wanted to do."

After further honing his teenage selling talents flogging sausages and pies, then televisions and white goods, Gibbons got a job at the Reading Evening Post.

It was here he learned and mastered the craft of selling. He said: "I took on every sales and marketing course they had going and over time moved through all the classified and run-off-paper departments."

"I was the leading salesman for the Evening Post's publishers, Thames Regional Newspapers, for three years in a row, which I think is quite an achievement. I'm proud of that."

When asked how he had managed to reign supreme as the department's top seller, Gibbons said: "One of the biggest parts of selling is listening. Quite often you hear someone say 'He's got to be a good salesman, he's got the gift of the gab' – but it's not actually true."

"It's the guy who can ask the right question, listen for the answer and use that answer to help him achieve his objective who is the best seller."

HAVING mastered the art of newspaper sales, Gibbons was ready for his next challenge. It would turn out to be a multi-million-pound move as Gibbons and Evening Post sales colleague John Madejski, now the chairman of Reading FC, launched the Thames Valley Trader – a precursor to what is now known as the Autotrader.

Gibbons said: "I'd known John for about six years. We worked in the same office and decided we wanted to go into business together. The only problem was that we

didn't know quite what to do. John went on holiday to California and brought back a very basic idea of Trader."

The pair pushed ahead with this plan and set up their own company, Hurst Publishing.

Gibbons said: "The biggest marketplace in Reading at that time was secondhand cars, so we decided that this was the industry we needed to move into."

"The problem was that we blindly thought the whole world was waiting for the product, so we had 200,000 leaflets explaining who we were and what we were doing distributed and then just waited for the phone to ring."

"It didn't. We were two weeks away from the launch date and slowly realised we had to go and sell the whole thing. We were working seven days a week."

"Monday was deadline day and Tuesday was spent at the typesetter's, reading the

pages off. We'd hit the road on Wednesday to Friday, selling from 8.30am, before cold-calling anyone who was selling their cars in the local newspaper, from 6.30pm to 9.30pm."

"Then on Saturday and Sunday we'd go out and take photos. We grafted. It was tough, but it worked."

The first edition of the Thames Valley Trader was 24 pages. It sold 2,000 copies.

The next 18 months were similar seven-day

week slogs.

The publishing pair's breakthrough came via Manchester-based newsman Eddy Shah's confrontations with the unions at his Warrington print works in 1983.

Gibbons explained: "When Eddy took on the unions, the whole industry up there was going on strike and other papers in the South would go on strike to support. Our typesetters were non-union and the printers were non-union, so we always published, even when papers in the area were all on strike."

"The garages had to advertise somewhere during these strikes, so we started putting on eight pages a week."

"We had been going for 18 months doing 56 pages per week. After two years we were up to 80/90 pages and then we were away."

"It took us 18 months of graft and concern trying to hold it up, but we had made it when Eddy took on the unions."

"I played golf with him here at Chart Hills



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come to golfing fore

about five years ago and the first thing I did was shake his hand and thank him.

"He said he wanted a share of the profits, but I told him he was too late."

AUTOTRADER went national in 1982. Hurst Publishing had 52 titles by the time it was sold in 1998 for £260 million, at which point Gibbons took a well-deserved break.

He said: "I sold the business and went abroad for three months to think about what I wanted to do.

"I came back and decided to get my golf together. I was having golf lessons at my local club when the pro asked me if I was going to buy Sandford Springs course in Hampshire.

"I went and had a look with my wife Jennifer, who was keen for me to take it on. "Whether she just wanted me out the house I'm not sure. I believed golf could be saleable. It's very much a saleable product.

"Unfortunately, I came in just at the peak of the market, at the point when golf was going to take a slide. A report in the 1980s said there were not enough clubs in the country, and there were 50 people waiting to get on the books of each club.

"What people hadn't realised was that people were signing three or four waiting lists.

"So all these golf clubs were built and then there weren't enough people to play them. It became a competitive marketplace in the wrong direction.

"Clubs tried to compete on price rather than quality and reputation. What we've done is get a high level of consistency on both the course and in the clubhouse.

"I've based everything on what I would want as an amateur golfer and a business executive. Priority No 1 is making sure our course is in the best condition any time of the year.

"Priority No 1 A is to make sure the clubhouse is as good as it can be, that the staff want to show it that way as well and that the service is top-drawer."

Gibbons's golf company, Leaderboard, bought Chart Hills in 2001. The club was redesigned by six-times Major winner Sir Nick Faldo and reopened in August, 2003. Among its signature features are a unique island green on the par-three 17th hole and 130 bunkers, including 'The Anaconda' on the fifth hole, which at 200 yards is the longest bunker in Europe.

The course is bracing itself for the arrival of thousands of golfing fans to the area next year when The Open is held in Sandwich.



ROUGH AND SMOOTH:
The first hole at the Sir Nick Faldo-designed Chart Hills course

Gibbons said: "I think the Open will bring an awful lot to the area and Kent in particular.

"It will create revenue for the area of at least £30m. Foreign golf fans will flock into the UK, joined by fans from across the country and these people will all want accommodation, transport, food and drink while they're here. We're already taking bookings and on one day we're fully booked."

Gibbons's latest venture is the Leaderboard golf website, which includes news and a range of video tutorials. It was launched exactly 34 years after Gibbons set up Trader, something he insists came about completely by chance.

As omens go, that's a fairly good one.

PAUL'S TOP TIPS

- Work hard, with full commitment to success
- Know your product inside out
- Know your marketplace and how your product sits within it
- Know all the benefits and unique selling points of your product
- Borrow from the bank as close to zero as you can get
- Always resist giving or selling shares, but instead offer a percentage of the profit as a bonus on a short-term scheme
- If you can achieve the above, then you should always be happy and enjoy working for yourself

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Insolvency trend shows slight fall

THE latest insolvency figures show a 3 per cent fall in Kent bankruptcy petitions.

The Ministry of Justice statistics reveal that in the three months to December 2010 there were 362 cases of business people declaring themselves bankrupt, down on the same period in the previous year.

Tunbridge Wells reported a decrease of 37 per cent, but Medway saw a 39 per cent rise, equating to 121 applications. Across England and Wales, there was a 22 per cent drop in people petitioning for their own bankruptcy, to 10,646 cases. Throughout 2010 as a whole, the figures show the overall number of bankruptcy petitions fell by more than 14 per cent compared with 2009.

Chris Nutting, director of personal insolvency at KPMG, said: "While it is encouraging that the headline figures show overall bankruptcy numbers have dropped, it should not be taken as evidence that people have solved their financial problems."

"Statistics released by the Insolvency Service last week showed that alternative insolvency procedures such as Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) and Debt Relief Orders (DROs) have had dramatic increases, leading to record numbers of personal insolvencies in 2010.

"At the same time, our research has shown creditors are losing £20 million a day due to insolvencies. As well as an increase in personal insolvency numbers, there is evidence that more people are turning to informal arrangements, such as debt-management plans, with their creditors.

"As the demand for impartial debt advice increases, it's a shame there are dramatic cuts to the funding for the free debt advice sector.

"As household budgets come under increasing pressure, it is vital that people speak to creditors at the earliest opportunity to find practical solutions to their underlying financial problems."

Stimulating meeting of minds aims to put Gateway in the zone



LOCAL ANGLE: KCC leader Paul Carter

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

THAMES Gateway bosses have discussed plans to turn the north Kent corridor into a new economic development zone.

The proposal was outlined at the first meeting of the locally-led Thames Gateway Strategic Group (TGSG) – made up of politicians and business leaders – at Canary Wharf, London.

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter said the group could help secure "economic prosperity" for the area.

"The Thames Gateway has enormous economic potential which can bring prosperity and jobs to north Kent," he said.

Potential

"By unlocking its potential with new infrastructure – including a third Thames Crossing – and encouraging development, we can create an additional 113,000 jobs in north Kent and south Essex over the next 20 years. It will be the task of the group to get things moving to secure economic prosperity for the area to benefit local businesses and people.

"By working together, we can find new ways of financing this growth, generating new inward investment and increasing the skills of the local workforce."

Thames Gateway minister Bob Neill praised the group for its initiative in driving growth in the region.

He said: "I'm delighted that for the first time local-authority leaders and business partners have come together to take charge of growing the Thames Gateway."

"Their first key decision – to bid for the Thames Gateway to become an economic



GATEWAY: Coalition minister Bob Neill

development zone – is a bold proposal that would incentivise the area's growth, rather than relying on Government grants.

"It shows the new thinking that is coming from freeing partners from central government dictat, which I welcome. I will now work with the group to open formal discussions with my colleagues across Government. I look forward to working with the group in the months and years ahead. I'm sure we'll see many more proposals from the new group which will stimulate economic growth benefiting all the Thames Gateway's communities."

After the meeting, a TGSG joint statement read: "The decisions taken at our first meeting show our commitment and that we mean business."

"Just as it took an enterprise zone to help Canary Wharf to become the powerhouse of London, we are now calling for a new type of economic development zone to carry on building on the work that has already taken place in the Thames Gateway."

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Crackdown on tax-credit fraud

FRAUDULENT self-employed tax-credit claimants are being targeted by HM Revenue and Customs.

HMRC teams have been examining tax-credit awards being paid to the self-employed and are writing to any whose claims may not be genuine or accurate.

Kent's 17,800 self-employed tax-credit claimants are being warned that they face a penalty if they fail to tell HMRC promptly of any changes in income and, in the case of deliberate fraud, criminal prosecution and imprisonment.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury David Gauke said: "HMRC is determined to take a tough approach to fraud by tax credit claimants."

"Last year the Government launched proposals to reduce the billions lost to tax credit error and fraud every year. These losses are unaffordable and unacceptable."

HMRC will use credit-reference agencies and data-matching to spot patterns of fraud.

The department is also employing additional investigators and are examining each claim in high-fraud areas.

Enterprising spirit of youth

A YOUTH enterprise scheme could add up to £360,000 to the county's economy over the next three years, a new report has revealed, *writes Simon Robinson.*

The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme has supported more than 330 unemployed 18- to 30-year-olds in the South East – including 72 in Kent – since its launch in January, 2010.

Bosses at the youth charity are now urging local government, businesses and individuals across the county to offer more support and funding, saying it could give the Kent economy a boost.

The charity's report, entitled Today's Young People – Tomorrow's Economy, estimates the scheme could add up to £1.6 million to the South East economy in three years, with Kent accounting for £360,000 of that amount.

The sum takes into account the potential financial ben-

efits of helping local young people into jobs or starting them up in business in terms of earnings. On top of this figure, there are savings to the public purse in terms of Jobseeker's Allowance.

The Prince's Trust's London and South East enterprise head Ben Marson said: "The growing success of our Enterprise Programme shows that young people in Kent are very entrepreneurial. By harnessing their enthusiasm for enterprise, not only will the public purse save on benefits, but Kent's economy stands to gain through young people's skills and talents.

"Now we need further funds to support more young people across the region, helping them escape long-term unemployment and poverty for good.

"Many of these young people will become the employers of tomorrow, providing services Kent needs. By helping today's young people, we are investing in tomorrow's economy."



PRINCE CHARLES

success, and In Demand have 46 gigs lined up over the next year.

Rachel said: "Running my own business means I can take my daughter along to rehearsals and fit work around being a mum."

Rachel hopes to set up her own entertainment agency, representing singers, comedians and magicians. She said: "One day, I hope I'll be able to help other young people find work in the entertainment industry."

This time last year, Rachel was unemployed and on Income Support. Today, she runs a successful business doing something she has always been passionate about.

She said: "Getting to this stage has been a lot of hard work, but I wouldn't have been able to do it without the help of The Prince's Trust. I would advise any young person hoping to set up their own business to get in touch with the charity."

CASE STUDY 1



BECKY Ashton, 24, is a trained dance teacher but found it impossible to get work when she moved to Chatham just over a year ago.

She was out of work for a depressing six months and found it extremely difficult to get a job. She said: "I moved to a new area to be with my partner and underestimated how hard it would be to find work. I started applying for all kinds of jobs, but hardly anything was available due to the recession and I was getting increasingly desperate."

Becky felt guilty for relying on her family for support and started to worry about money and her future.

Becky felt setting up her own dance company could be the solution but had no idea about how to run a business. She decided to approach The Prince's Trust, which runs an enterprise programme to help unemployed young people gain the skills and confidence to set up their own businesses.

As part of the programme, Becky attended a four-day Explore Enterprise course, which taught essential skills such as how to write a business plan, how to manage accounts and how to get funding. She decided to name her business the Right Step Dance Company and was awarded a start-up loan and a business mentor.

Becky said: "My mentor has been incredibly helpful. As an ex-banker,

he has been able to help me manage my money better and has given me the confidence to do things I wouldn't have considered before. He has also introduced me to important business contacts."

Within a few months, Becky had developed contacts with several schools and care homes and was awarded funding as part of a fitness campaign run by a supermarket chain.

She said: "Having my own business and my own website suddenly made people take notice of me."

Today, Right Step is a hugely successful community dance company, teaching dance in schools, dance clubs, care homes and children's centres across Kent. Becky has four other dance teachers working with her on a self-employed basis.

In just seven months, Becky has transformed her life, and she now wants to help other aspiring dance teachers to do the same. She has a young dance teacher shadowing her whom she hopes will be able to her own classes soon.

Becky said: "Working as a dance teacher is so rewarding. It's great to see how much my students, who range from five to 99 years old, enjoy their lessons. I'm really excited about seeing my company grow and really grateful to The Prince's Trust for helping me to do something I love."

CASE STUDY 2

MARIE Simpson, 27, from Medway, was unemployed for nine months after being made redundant from her job as a hairdresser in February, 2009.

At the time, few salons were taking on staff and Marie became increasingly worried about being out of work.

She said: "I had a young daughter to look after and it was very difficult trying to get by on Income Support alone. I applied for so many jobs, but all the salons were cutting back on staff."

Marie knew she needed to be back at work and found being home all day depressing. She said: "Some days, I would take my daughter to school and then go back to bed because there was nothing else to do."

Marie realised setting up her own hairdressing business could be the only solution but had no idea where to start. However, when a friend started The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme, she decided to sign up.



She said: "I went on a four-day Explore Enterprise course which was really inspiring. For the first time, I felt like setting up my own business was something I could actually achieve."

After the course, Marie decided to set up Distinct Styles, a mobile hairdressing business in Medway. She was given a business mentor who was able to advise on all areas of running a business.

Marie said: "I couldn't have set up my business without a mentor. She is always there to listen to my ideas, calm me down and answer any questions. A year later, I still call her all the time."

Distinct Styles is now a successful business and Marie is in talks with local salon Flash Divas to work with them in their photographic studio a few days a week. She is also keen to help other young people and teaches hairdressing.

Marie said: "I'm so grateful to The Prince's Trust for helping me to start up my own business. I'm proud of what I've achieved so far and would like to use my experience to help other young people find work."

CASE STUDY 3

RACHEL Hamlin, from Margate, always dreamed of becoming a singer and spent years working in holiday parks around the UK.

However, she had to give up work when her daughter was born and found it impossible to combine her love of singing with the reality of life as a single mum. She was unemployed for just under a year and didn't know what to do next.

She said: "I was living on benefits and staying at home all day. I had very little self-respect and no pride in what I was doing."

Rachel, 26, came up with a plan to set up her own singing duo, In Demand, which would tour in pubs,

clubs and holiday parks around the country. She felt running her own business would make it easier to work around looking after her daughter, as she would be able to choose when and where she worked. Rachel had no idea how to run a business but was put in touch with The Prince's Trust via Business Link.

She said: "The trust's enterprise course was fantastic. It taught me so much – such as how to write a business plan and manage accounts and taxes. Without this support, my idea to set up In Demand would have remained just that – an idea."

Less than a year after joining the Enterprise Programme, Rachel's duo has become a huge



IN DEMAND:
Rachel, below,
with Aimee
Louise March

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NEXT WEEK: Spotlight on international business

Records are set to tumble at popular half-marathon

STEVE TERVET previews this year's Tunbridge Wells half-marathon which will see the largest field in the race's 12-year history, led by two-time Olympian Liz Yelling, who makes her debut on the 13-mile course on Sunday

OLYMPIC marathon runner Liz Yelling will head up the largest field ever seen at the Tunbridge Wells half-marathon when 2,600 people take to the start line on Sunday morning.

The race was sold out seven weeks in advance and Yelling, 36, is the highest-profile athlete to take part in the event, which has trebled in size over the past four years.

With 2,100 of the starters expected to finish the hilly 13-mile route, race director Sarah Russell said she was excited by the continuing growth of the race, organised by Tunbridge Wells Harriers.

"The race has grown massively over the last four years," she said. "We've sold out three weeks ahead of time but this year, we've exceeded that and we sold out seven weeks ahead of time, which is great."

"Liz is very high-profile and we're delighted she's running. If she's on good form and runs well, she could break the course record which has stood for 10 years."

Yelling's closest competition in the women's race is likely to come from Helen Decker (Ipswich Jaffa), who won last year's race before running the marathon for Great Britain at the Commonwealth Games in India.

Julian Rendell (Tonbridge AC) has won at



BLADE RUNNER: Richard Whitehead

Tunbridge Wells twice before, while Will Levett (Bedford) is another former winner and could well be the man to beat again.



LARGEST FIELD: Around 2,600 runners will be raring to go at the starting line

Blade runner Richard Whitehead, the double leg amputee world record holder, is back among the field and targeting a spot at the London Paralympics.

The race begins on St John's Road and the first five miles are relatively flat with the runners heading to Southborough and along the Bidborough Ridge.

As the field heads through the villages of Pernshurst, Fordcombe, Langton Green and Rusthall, the hilly section kicks in before the flat finale back towards St John's Road.

THE RACE IN NUMBERS

- 1:15:36...the women's race record set by Andrea Green in 2001
- 400... volunteers needed to make the race happen
- 2,600...runners expected at the start line
- 78...the age of the race's oldest runner, Graham Brooks (Tunbridge Wells Harriers)
- 1...Liz Yelling's race number
- £40,000...money the race has raised for charity since 2008

Yelling targets record in debut

A 10-YEAR-OLD course record could be set to tumble on Sunday when Liz Yelling makes her debut appearance at the Tunbridge Wells half-marathon.

Yelling, continuing her preparations for April's London Marathon, starts as the clear favourite for the women's race this weekend and feels record pace is well within her grasp.

However, having no previous experience of the 13-mile course, the 36-year-old faces a largely unknown challenge as she bids to run inside Andrea Green's time of 1:15:36, set back in 2001.

"I could have a crack at that although I don't know exactly what the course is like," admitted Yelling. "I've heard it's quite hilly so I don't know how much that will slow me down."

"I'll probably get myself to the start line and take it from there. I know how to pace myself over 13

miles and I'll probably keep going for an hour after the race."

Yelling, whose long-term goal is a third Olympic marathon at the 2012 London Games, picked up a bronze medal at the English Cross Country Championships last weekend.

Having recently run her fastest half-marathon time since giving birth in 2009, she is keen to step up her London preparations further with an impressive display at Tunbridge Wells.

"The last races I've done have really been training runs to build up my strength and pace," Yelling said. "It would be nice to win on Sunday and I'd like to run a controlled race in a reasonable time."

CHALLENGE: Liz Yelling aims to beat the course record set in 2001



Kelly praises race organisers

DAME Kelly Holmes has praised race organisers ahead of the Tunbridge Wells half-marathon as she prepares to perform starter's duties for a second year running.

The double Olympic gold medallist is also the race ambassador and she underlined the significance of Liz Yelling choosing to join the field in her build-up to the London Marathon.

"She's a world-class athlete and this is the distance she's comfortable at," Holmes said. "When you get so many people coming to the race, to have elite athletes coming gives it real prestige and whatever level you're running at, you can say 'I ran in the same race as Liz Yelling'."

"It's what all these race organisers hope for, getting their race recognised by up-and-coming talents or established athletes. It means you're doing

something right and it can only bring more profile for the following year."

Profits from the race will go towards the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust, which works with young people who are not in education, training or employment by putting them on community-based training courses.

Around 2,600 runners will start the race on Sunday morning and Holmes said she was impressed by the professional nature of its organisation.

"It's great it's kept its numbers," she said. "It's good for Tunbridge Wells to know they can pull off a good event. I've only run parts of the course myself but from what I hear, it's pretty gruesome. People still turn up, though, and that's a great credit to the organisation."

STARTER'S ORDERS: Dame Kelly Holmes will start the race again this year Picture: IGOR KUPCO



Tonbridge athletes shine again in cross-country

DESPITE atrocious conditions Tonbridge Athletic Club equalled their best ever showing at the National Cross Country Championships last weekend.

The only club to enter a team in all 10 races, Tonbridge left with four team medals to underline their status as a national force in the junior ranks.

There were also encouraging signs in the older age groups, with the senior men recording their highest finish in club history. Sam

Bradley was the first home, finishing 127th in a huge field of more than 1,300 runners, as Tonbridge's team came 17th of 95 entries.

For Mark Hookway, the club's winter team manager, the result was more satisfying than the medal-winning performances in the younger age groups.

He said: "Funnily enough the senior men was more pleasing. For a long time we've been trying to get a few of them through to senior level and five of the six were 22 or younger.

Finishing 17th doesn't sound that great, but you have to consider the number of runners involved."

Heavy rain turned the venue at Alton Towers into a quagmire, which saw runners battling the course as much as their competitors.

It did not disrupt Tonbridge's under-15 and under-17 teams, who finished the season unbeaten by taking gold medals.

The latter's strength in depth was extraordi-

nary and if the rules permitted, the second group of four scorers finished high enough to win bronze. Robbie Farnham-Rose was in hospital with suspected appendicitis on the eve of the championships, but ran through the pain to finish fifth.

Max Nicholls won the only individual medal of the day, finishing second to lead the under-15s to glory.

There was a silver medal for the under-13 boys, while the under-15 girls took bronze.

Larkin calls on Hooley to show Wells 'loyalty'

Boss hopeful of fighting off interest for 19-goal man

By **STEVE TERVET**

TUNBRIDGE Wells manager Martin Larkin has fielded another seven-day approach for one of his strikers this week, with VCD Athletic keen to sign Carl Cornell.

The 19-goal hitman has attracted attention from several clubs in recent weeks, although Larkin said VCD were the first club to officially register their interest.

The striker, known as Hooley, has already been on the winning side against VCD twice this season and the Wells boss said he expected the front man to commit his immediate future to the club.

"I'm quite shocked it's taken this long for someone to [put in an approach] and I'm shocked that's it VCD who have done it," Larkin said. "They are, on reflection, a team who are not going to win the league."

"We're in a good position, we've built the team around Hooley and Keelan [Mooney] and we need them to show a bit of loyalty. The seven-day requests are the official stuff, but these guys are being spoken to, unofficially, all the time."

Mooney turned down a chance to sign for Sevenoaks Town last week and he should be fit to face Deal Town at Culverden Stadium on Saturday after recovering from an injury sustained in victory at Beckenham last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, midfielder Tom Davey could also play some part this weekend after recovering from medial ligament damage quicker than anticipated.

The Wells won 4-3 at Deal in October, but defensive frailty remains a concern for Larkin,



INTEREST: Carl Cornell will mull over an offer from VCD Athletic this week, but manager Martin Larkin expects the in-form forward to commit his future to Tunbridge Wells

who has seen his side keep just one clean sheet in their last 10 outings.

"We scored four goals away from home but gifted them three goals and that's what we've got to stop doing," he said. "It's very rare that we're opened up, but it's important to start defending properly."

Michal Czanner has returned from a skiing trip and will take his place in goal against Deal, while Perry Spackman and Steve Ashmore have shaken off a flu bug.

The Wells saw their league game against Holmesdale rained off last weekend, but Larkin will watch the Bromley side at Fisher on Monday night before the sides meet in the Kent Senior Trophy semi-final next weekend.

Meanwhile, the Wells boss is waiting to hear back after lodging two seven-day requests of his own in an attempt to bolster his squad, who still have almost half of their league fixtures remaining.



OPENER: But Keelan Mooney's (right) goal was equalised just 60 seconds later

Mooney's strike cancelled out in Deres stalemate

Erith & Belvedere 1

Tunbridge Wells 1

KEELAN Mooney's early goal at Erith & Belvedere was cancelled out within a minute as Tunbridge Wells had to settle for a share of the spoils at Park View Road.

Mooney, who turned down a seven-day approach from Sevenoaks Town to stay at Culverden last week, gave the Wells a fifth-minute lead on Tuesday night, only to see the home side pull level almost from the restart.

Deres' striker Marcus Cassius lost possession in midfield and the ball was quickly played forward for Mooney who burst into the penalty area, turned inside a defender and fired a low shot underneath goalkeeper Dean Ruddy to give the visitors an early lead.

However, their advantage was cancelled out less than 60 seconds later when former Tonbridge Angels winger Kirk Watts found Danny Powell in space and the forward let fly with a dipping volley that deceived stand-in stopper, Greg Thurston - who is also Wells goalkeeping coach.

The home side thought they had taken the lead on 16 minutes when Frankie Sawyer tapped Cassius' header into the net, only for it to be chalked off for off-side.

Wells looked to catch their opponents on the counter-attack, but failed to threaten the Erith & Belvedere goal, apart from a couple of Andy McMath free-kicks that Ruddy easily saw off.

The point keeps Martin Larkin's side 10th ahead of Saturday's visit of Deal Town.

Suns' chances of clinching play-off place fading fast

A SPOT in the end-of-season play-offs is beginning to look increasingly distant for Sevenoaks Suns women following a second successive heavy home defeat.

The Suns went down 89-57 to Team Northumbria on Saturday, seven days after losing to City of Sheffield Hatters by exactly the same margin.

Head coach Len Busch was without several key players for the Northumbria defeat and a 17-point haul from Harriet Yea was of little consequence as the visitors romped clear.

Things get no easier for Busch's side this weekend as they face a tough trip west to face second-placed UWIC Archers in Cardiff.

Meanwhile, the club's under-18s return to league action on Sunday after a four-week lay-off as they look to close the 11-point gap to league leaders Haringey Angels with a win at Brixton Topcats.



Quaife closing in on Le Mans deal



ON TRACK: Phil Quaife aims to return to the Le Mans Series after a strong debut season

TUNBRIDGE racer Phil Quaife is close to finalising a deal to drive in this year's Le Mans Series (LMS) following a promising debut season in the competition.

The 24-year-old, who finished 2010 joint-10th in the GT2 class, is hungry for more of the same this year after getting to grips with his new surroundings as the season progressed.

"I'm very happy with how last year went and I want the same again this year," Quaife said. "It was a good team, the right package and the right car."

"Towards the end of the season I was matching the pace of the top runners, the likes of Jaime Melo, if not going a little bit better. I was happy with the performance and if I'm

able to get a drive in LMS again this year, I'll be doing the same thing."

Quaife has spent much of the winter in the Middle East, racing in the UAE GT championship. He finished 19th overall in the Dubai 24-hours last month and is keen to turn his experience into points back on home soil later this year.

"I learnt so much [in LMS] last year," he said. "If a deal comes off this year, I feel ready to go straight in, knowing what I'm going to see."

"I adapted pretty well but it's quite daunting when you first go out and the prototypes are flying past you at who knows what speed. If I race, I just want to win, whatever category or championship I'm driving in."

Hat-trick man Rufus happy at Oaks after Spain pain

A NINE-MINUTE hat-trick from Rufus McNaught-Barrington helped Sevenoaks Hockey Club to a 3-2 win over Southgate last weekend, lifting them closer to safety in Conference East.

Having joined the club in the mid-season transfer window, McNaught-Barrington has added some much-needed flair to the Oaks attack after a miserable opening to the outdoor campaign.

With three wins from four games

since Christmas, Oaks are suddenly looking competitive and their latest addition is revelling in his decision to leave Spanish side Taburiente for west Kent.

McNaught-Barrington said: "I'd only played against [Sevenoaks] but I have friends who play here and that was a driving factor."

"I was enjoying being in Spain for all the wrong reasons and the coach was so difficult to work with so I wasn't enjoying my hockey."

"Everything else was fantastic, the location, the team members, but the coach was so negative and he made you feel bad about every little mistake, even in the warm-up."

"I had a contract until December so I was able to come back and I want to see Sevenoaks do well because they are a big club and there is a good family atmosphere."

McNaught-Barrington has pre-

vious experience of National League hockey with Exeter University and having already been capped by Wales, he is targeting an appearance at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Meanwhile, Sevenoaks return to league action on Saturday with a crucial trip to Oxted, while the club's women could go top of Conference East with victory over Horsham on Sunday.

Picture: GOR KUPCO



BATTLE: Cranbrook's hopes of staying up suffered a blow with defeat to Medway

Cranes facing tough test at Crowborough

A TRIP to high-flying Crowborough lies in store for Cranbrook this weekend as their battle to stave off relegation back to Kent 1 intensifies.

The Cranes make the short trip across the Kent-Sussex border more in hope than expectation, with the home side one of three clubs to have broken away at the summit of London 3 South East.

Having lost just once on their home patch all season, Crowborough are two points off top-spot, while last Saturday's 39-12 defeat to Kent rivals Medway sent Cranbrook back down to second-bottom.

In a game switched from the waterlogged Tomlin Ground to a local school, the Cranes recorded the first and last scores of an otherwise one-sided contest.

Cranbrook have five games left to preserve their place in the division, with just one point separating them from Horsham, the side immediately above them.

RUGBY LEAGUE TABLES

LONDON 1 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	PD	BP	Pts
1 Tonbridge Juddians	20	19	0	1	+524	15	91
2 Chichester	20	15	2	3	+360	14	78
3 London Irish Amateur	20	15	2	3	+320	14	78
4 Haywards Heath	20	12	1	7	+182	11	61
5 Beckenham	20	12	2	6	+117	8	60
6 Portsmouth	20	11	2	7	+12	9	57
7 Dover	20	10	1	9	+116	14	56
8 Sutton & Epsom	20	9	1	10	+61	13	51
9 Hove	20	8	0	12	+104	13	45
10 Thanet Wanderers	20	7	2	11	-198	5	37
11 Cobham	20	7	1	12	-163	6	36
12 Wimbledon	20	5	1	14	-368	5	27
13 Chobham	20	0	2	18	-525	3	7
14 Tunbridge Wells	20	1	1	18	-542	0	6

LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST

1 Old Elthamians	17	16	0	1	+424	12	76
2 Lewes	17	11	0	6	+132	9	53
3 Aylesford Bulls	15	11	0	4	+138	7	51
4 Sevenoaks	16	9	0	7	+198	12	48
5 East Grinstead (-15)	16	12	1	3	+306	11	46
6 Brighton	15	8	1	6	+33	9	43
7 Maidstone	16	7	0	9	-98	5	33
8 Warrington	17	6	0	11	-193	6	30
9 Old Dunstonians	17	5	1	11	-24	7	29
10 Old Mid-Whitgiftian	17	4	2	11	-300	5	25
11 Deal & Betseshanger (-15)	16	6	1	9	-68	6	17
12 Purley John Fisher (-5)	17	0	0	17	-548	2	-3

LONDON 3 SOUTH EAST

1 Heathfield & Waldron	17	15	0	2	+327	13	73
2 Crowborough	17	14	1	2	+268	13	71
3 Charlton Park	17	14	2	1	+302	10	70
4 Park House	17	9	2	6	+1	8	48
5 Medway	16	9	0	7	+94	10	46
6 Folkestone	17	9	0	8	+87	8	44
7 Eastbourne	17	8	1	8	-28	7	41
8 Bromley	17	5	1	11	-94	6	28
9 Crawley	17	5	0	12	-163	6	26
10 Horsham (-5)	17	4	1	12	-181	5	18
11 Cranbrook	17	3	0	14	-253	5	17
12 Dartfordians	16	2	0	14	-360	2	10

Oaks' promotion hopes looking bleak

TIME is running out for Sevenoaks to relaunch their promotion push following last Saturday's damaging home defeat to East Grinstead.

A storming display from the visitors left the Oaks on the wrong end of a 42-17 thumping and defeat to third-placed Aylesford Bulls this weekend would almost end their play-off hopes.

The Bulls have been in fine form recently and Sevenoaks chairman Lee Adamson admitted his side were beginning to show signs of fatigue as the season approaches its climax.

"A lot will depend on the players' mental preparations and how they lift themselves during the week," he said. "It's still very tight at the top, but I detect we've hit a patch of rocky form. 'We've been playing the top sides

lately and each of those fixtures have shown we've just not been quite good enough."

Sevenoaks trailed East Grinstead by only three points at the halfway stage last weekend before shipping three second-half tries and falling away badly.

Having seen his side beat Bulls 22-14 in the second week of the season, Adamson insists there is enough quality to keep the season alive, but knows there is no more margin for error.

"It leaves us needing snookers," he said. "We've got to win the rest of our games and hope that people do some damage to our rivals at the same time. It's going to be very difficult and Aylesford look to be the favourites for second-place now."



DEFEAT: Oaks (with ball) lost to East Grinstead last week

TJs could send Wells down with derby win

Top versus bottom as local rivals prepare to collide

By **STEVE TERVET**

TONBRIDGE Juddians entertain local rivals Tunbridge Wells at The Slade on Saturday knowing victory will finally condemn their neighbours to relegation.

The Wells have been adrift of the pack in London 1 South all season, but should their inevitable demotion be sealed this weekend, it will leave a particularly bitter taste in the mouth.

With TJs hungry to wrap up their third straight promotion as quickly as possible, the visitors know a bruising afternoon awaits as they bid to preserve local pride in front of a sizeable crowd.

There will be no room for sentiment in the home changing-room, with TJs head coach Peter Dankert urging his players to maintain the ruthless streak which saw them crush Cobham 69-0 last weekend.

Just four wins now stand between Dankert's side and promotion to the National Leagues, but he said the Wells' fate would offer him no extra satisfaction.

"It's not something any club can take pride in," he said. "If that's the result, if we win, it wasn't our doing, it was the losses they've



GOING DOWN: Tunbridge Wells, pictured against TJs earlier this season, look set for the drop from London 1 South even if they win the derby clash against the league leaders

had this season. We managed to score four tries and take a bonus point at their place, and we'd be satisfied if we did the same thing again."

The Wells, bottom of the table and a sizeable 30 points from safety with just six games remaining, were beaten 31-6 by

second-placed London Irish Amateur last weekend.

However, they look to have regained the spirit that deserted them in heavy defeats to Hove and Sutton & Epsom and 1st XV manager Tom Callaway fired a warning shot to Saturday's opponents.

"Everyone wants to play and there's a few of our old players with them," he said. "TJs are on a high after a big win against Cobham, but if they think we'll be a soft touch, that will work in our favour. Although we've got an eye on next season, it doesn't mean we're going to write this season off because if we give up now, that will only damage morale for the start of next season."

Dan Bettice returns at prop for the visitors after suspension and Josh Pitman makes his long-awaited debut after a troublesome ankle injury.

Meanwhile, Christophe Blom will return for TJs, but Logan Chandler will be out for four weeks after suffering a head injury against Cobham.

With TJs' next three games all against sides in the bottom-half, Dankert has his eyes firmly on the championship.

He said: "If we win the league early, it won't change the way we play. We're playing very good rugby but until it's mathematically done, we'll keep pushing hard."

Crowd to set tills ringing

BUMPER bar takings and food sales are set to boost the Tonbridge Juddians coffers with a large crowd anticipated for Saturday's derby against Tunbridge Wells.

With an estimated 650 supporters turning up for the reverse fixture at St Mark's in September, TJs are laying on an outdoor bar and chairman Jon Maidman is keen to make the most of the occasion.

"These days are important to everyone and we're anticipating a few people coming down," he said. "We'll have to see whether the interest is still there, but we are catering for that."

"Our fate is not sealed, although I think theirs is, but it's still a local derby. They'll be looking to rebuild, albeit in the league



TAKINGS: TJs expect a tidy profit with a large derby crowd expected on Saturday

below, but we've been there and these things are cyclical.

"I think we do take pride in [being the top side in the area], we spent a long time looking up to Sevenoaks and Maidstone and maybe it's just our turn in the grand scheme of things."

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

Warrilow not ready to give up the title chase

League up for grabs despite losses, says Angels boss

By **STEVE TERVET**

TOMMY Warrilow has no intention of giving up the Ryman Premier Division title despite two damaging back-to-back defeats last week.

Having lost at basement side Croydon Athletic the previous weekend, the Angels then went down 1-0 to league leaders Sutton United last Saturday to leave Tonbridge a massive 13 points behind their rivals.

Warrilow, the Tonbridge boss, then saw his side win a gritty game 2-1 at Hastings in midweek to close the gap and he has now called on his players to lift themselves for the final straight of a season, which he believes will carry plenty more twists and turns yet.

"If we win our two games in hand, we're only five points behind Sutton," Warrilow said.

"They'll drop points somewhere along the line so all we've got to do is concentrate on ourselves. I've never used the phrase before with the lads, but I did say to them we've got 13 cup finals and we've got to treat it like that.

"The season's going to fly by and I always want us to be there or thereabouts, to give ourselves something to play for, and this year's no different. We've got a fantastic chance of getting out of this league, but we are making hard work of it at times."



POINT TO PROVE: Angels manager Tommy Warrilow believes his side can still win the title if they win their games in hand and rivals Sutton drop points

Striker Ade Olorunda is almost certain to miss Saturday's trip to Hendon after suffering a serious head injury at Hastings. His place could be taken by Jay May, relegated to the bench in midweek, or there could be a first start in Tonbridge colours for former Maidstone frontman Adrian Stone.

Hendon have lost four of their last five games, including an 8-1 thrashing at Lowestoft last Saturday, but despite their indifferent form, Warrilow insists Saturday's opponents are not to be taken lightly.

"I've always liked Hendon, I've always rated them and I've never had an easy game

against them," he said. "They're a decent side so I'm expecting a really hard game up there.

"I want us to take our chances when we make them because I think we take for granted how many chances we create. I don't think it hurts us enough [when we miss] and the message to the boys is that when we're on song, we've really got to make it count."

Midfielder Lee Browning is a doubt for Saturday's game after twisting his ankle towards the end of the win at Hastings and despite injuries picked up in midweek, Warrilow insists he will not be looking for replacements.



WINNING GOAL: Ade Olorunda (right)

Tonbridge win to stay in touch

Hastings United 1

Tonbridge Angels 2

TONBRIDGE Angels halted their mini-slump on Tuesday night as goals from Fraser Logan and Ade Olorunda proved enough to sink struggling Hastings United.

The home side produced a spirited late fight-back, though, and George Porter could have salvaged a point when his stoppage-time effort rattled the frame of Lee Worgan's goal.

Logan put the visitors ahead on eight minutes when he collected Lee Browning's pass inside the box and rifled a low drive beyond the reach of Hastings debutant Seb Barton.

The lead was doubled on the stroke of half-time when Ben Judge knocked a cross into Olorunda's path and the former Hastings man tapped home from close-range to underline the dominance of the visitors.

However, Lewis Perkins pulled a goal back on 63 minutes and after Olorunda had left the ground in an ambulance with a mouth injury, the home side piled on the pressure as Tonbridge clung on for the win.

Angels manager Tommy Warrilow said: "We played reasonably well until the goal went in, then every time we passed it, it went to them.

"Everything that could go wrong did, but it's a massive three points because the teams around us played each other and have dropped points."

The win keeps Angels third in the Ryman Premier Division ahead of this weekend's trip to Hendon.

Youngsters join queue for academy

APPLICATIONS are already flooding in for places at the Hadlow College Football Academy as youngsters eye a future in the Tonbridge Angels first-team.

Launched in association with the town's football club, the academy will run trials at Hadlow from April 18 and is expected to cater for around 40 players in its first year.

As Angels' main sponsor, the college will provide the teenagers with expert coaching and the opportunity to play league football on their way to a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification in sport.

Tonbridge manager Tommy Warrilow welcomed the scheme and said the launch of the academy was a necessity if the club were to pursue a long-term climb up the football pyramid.

"I think it's fantastic, it's the next step all the clubs are doing now," he said. "I just hope it bears fruit, that you've got lads who want to be footballers, but without disturbing their education.

"It's got to help, it's a numbers game. Our



TRIALS: Hadlow College Football Academy aims to produce Angels players of the future

reserves are all kids anyway and they've done fantastic this year, but this will only make it better."

The college is keen to attract youngsters from right across the region to attend trials as they bid to provide a solid educational base for the aspirational footballers.

Vice-principal Lynda Brown said: "This is

really in its embryonic stage, but we see it as the natural progression from our land-based studies. We've had a good response for the trials and a lot of applications.

"For me, it's about engaging young people in education through a vocational area and reaching out to young people who are interested in the football academy and playing to that level."

Sevenoaks striker boost ahead of Bengal clash

SEVENOAKS Town have successfully landed a new striker in time for this weekend's game against Sporting Bengal after missing out on Tunbridge Wells forward Keelan Mooney.

We exclusively revealed that Town manager Keith Levett put in a seven-day approach for the forward after his side's 4-1 derby victory over the Wells two weeks ago, but Mooney has opted to stay at Culverden Stadium.

However, new man Billy Driver is set to start for Sevenoaks against Sporting Bengal on Saturday after join-

ing from Maidstone United on an initial one-month stay.

"Keelan won't be joining us," Levett said. "I had a chat with him and he's happy where he is so I respect that. Billy's been training with Maidstone and he'll be in for Saturday. "Maidstone really rate him but he needs a bit more experience. We've got him for one or two months and there's a good chance he'll start on Saturday."

Driver is likely to fill the void left by Town skipper Lee Hales, who misses the Sporting game due to family commitments.

It was Hales who scored the only goal as Town won the reverse fixture 1-0 last month, although Levett admitted his side were lucky to escape with maximum points against an unpredictable Bengal side.

He said: "They lack organisation but individually, they've got good footballers. They play a lot of 'off the cuff' football which is hard to play against."

Town's hopes of bouncing back from their 2-0 defeat to Lordswood were put on hold last weekend when a waterlogged pitch called off their trip to Corinthian.



CLASH: Sevenoaks Town face Bengal

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1 Sutton United	31	19	7	5	56	26	+30	64
2 Bury Town	30	16	9	5	51	35	+16	57
3 Tonbridge Angels	29	16	5	8	52	37	+15	53
4 Billericay Town	30	15	6	9	44	36	+8	51
5 Lowestoft Town	28	13	11	4	46	20	+26	50
6 Concord Rangers	30	14	7	9	51	42	+9	49
7 Kingstonian	30	14	6	10	42	37	+5	48
8 Cray Wanderers	29	13	6	10	52	32	+20	45
9 Harrow Borough	28	13	5	10	54	36	+18	44
10 Canvey Island	28	12	8	8	45	37	+8	44
11 AFC Hornchurch	28	12	8	8	37	34	+3	44
12 Wealdstone	29	11	7	11	45	40	+5	40
13 Carshalton Athletic	29	11	6	12	38	35	+3	39
14 Hendon	27	10	7	10	49	50	-1	37
15 Margate	30	9	9	12	37	37	0	36
16 Tooting & Mitcham	29	9	8	12	42	60	-18	35
17 Horsham	30	8	7	15	28	58	-30	31
18 Hastings United	30	5	8	17	32	49	-17	23
19 Avelley	28	6	5	17	20	41	-21	23
20 Folkestone Invicta	28	4	9	15	21	40	-19	21
21 Maidstone United	28	4	9	15	27	50	-23	21
22 Croydon Athletic (-3)	29	7	3	19	33	70	-37	21

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1 Erith Town	19	11	4	4	43	20	+23	37
2 Hythe Town	16	11	2	3	45	21	+24	35
3 Herne Bay	17	10	5	2	33	21	+12	35
4 VCD Athletic	16	9	5	2	29	19	+10	32
5 Greenwich Borough	18	10	0	8	40	21	+19	30
6 Beckenham Town	17	9	2	6	34	28	+6	29
7 Norton Sports	17	6	6	5	27	30	-3	24
8 Corinthian	18	7	3	8	21	26	-5	24
9 Sevenoaks Town	17	7	2	8	23	25	-2	23
10 Tunbridge Wells	16	6	4	6	37	27	+10	22
11 Erith & Belvedere	15	6	3	6	27	24	+3	21
12 Lordswood	18	6	2	10	25	33	-8	20
13 Deal Town	18	6	2	10	22	33	-11	20
14 Fisher	19	5	2	12	22	43	-21	17
15 Holmesdale	19	3	7	9	20	28	-8	16
16 Sporting Bengal	20	3	1	16	23	72	-49	10

SATURDAY'S FIXTURES

(All games kick-off at 3pm unless otherwise stated)

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION: Hendon v Tonbridge Angels
KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Tunbridge Wells v Deal Town; Sevenoaks Town v Sporting Bengal

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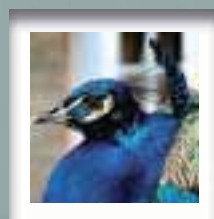
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11am – 4pm
Free Entry

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Quex Park

*This promotion is only valid with travel arrangements booked through Trailblazer Travel, Herne Bay (ABTA & ATOL 01227 283 702 www.trailblazertravel.co.uk). The value of this promotion cannot be exchanged for cash, transferred or assigned to another party. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. All additional travel costs in excess to the Grand Prize Draw amount are payable directly to Trailblazer Travel by the winners. No responsibility will be accepted for lost, stolen, or damaged travel documents or cancellation of travel arrangements by a third party. Trailblazer Travel full Terms and Conditions will apply to this prize.